

The nature of God's heart

"Not good is it for the human for him to be alone. I will make for him a helper as his complement."

It's almost as if this revelation should have come before all the creating God did earlier in Genesis. The love and the warmth that God feels for us is the reason He made all the things needed to support us—like the sun and the seal and the anteatr.

John 3:16 says, "God so loves the world that He gives His only begotten Son." I understand this. The love God has for us made Him *do* something. But in Genesis, we see the "doing something" first, and *then* we see the love. God felt it necessary to first flex His muscles. When we see such awesome power, we tend to become afraid and run away from Someone and Something so powerful. ("Is It mean?") But then God quickly breathes out Gen. 2:18, and we breathe a sigh of relief and even affection.



God no longer seems only like a cold Creator, but like a warm Father. "Oh my goodness," we say, "He exercised all this power and made all these things because He was thinking, the whole time, about what we would need to feel loved and close to Him. He was thinking, the whole time, of our need for companionship. He doesn't want us to be lonely, and neither does He want to be lonely.

This thought makes me love God even more. ■

Martin Zender's Clanging Gong News

"If I know all mysteries and all knowledge, but have no love, I am a clanging gong" --1 Cor. 13:1-2



Two out of three isn't bad.

It's not good to be alone

"Not good is it for the human for him to be alone. I will make for him a helper as his complement."

—Concordant Version, Gen. 2:18

A complement is "that which makes complete." There was a time in the universe when God looked around, but there was no one around to look back at Him. God said, "Hello!" but it echoed back to Him, like this: **"Hello, hello, hello, hello!"** And so God created Christ as *His* complement (Col. 1:19, 2:9). So far so good. But then Christ looked around and, except for God, *He* was all alone. So out of Christ came a metaphorical body—a band of brothers known as the body of Christ. This body, then, became Christ's complement (Eph. 4:13).

This was all very good, but as far as God was concerned, there was still more loneliness to cure. God wanted Christ to have even more company, and so He arranged for Christ to take for Himself a figurative bride, which would be faithful Israel. Christ ends up with plenty of company, then, and whatever company Christ gets, God gets. Christ has company both in heaven and on earth. For heaven, He has His body, and for earth, He has His bride; company, company, company.

God is telling us through all this that being alone isn't all it's cracked up to be, and that even what it *is* cracked up to be isn't much. Everyone likes and needs companionship, even God and Christ. I hope I'm not oversimplifying this, because it is a deep, mature truth.

Simple pictures

It's hard to understand God and Christ because we have brains that, compared to God's brain (God doesn't really have a brain, but please try to co-operate with me here as I make a point), are the size of M&Ms. And so we look first to the complement that God gave Adam back in Eden. I speak, of course, of Eve. We look there because it's a simple picture that everyone understands.



Ever seen a man and woman walking hand-in-hand and felt satisfied? Then you are getting the picture of how things are with God and Christ. Adam and Eve are a simple picture, yes, but they illustrate the same truth in the higher spirit world. This is God's way of instructing us. This is why He made man and woman. The truth is always the same, but God gives us Sunday school pictures, if you will, because He is merciful to our M&M-sized brains. When we grasp the truth in the simple picture, then God raises the viewpoint and says, "Now keep the truth that you learned in the simple picture, raise the viewpoint, and now you understand celestial things better. If you have seen a married couple in love, then you understand my Son and Me. You really do. I'm serious. It's not a sexual relationship, per se. It's all about companionship, and love, and love reciprocated." *(continued on pg. 2)*

...not good to be alone

(Continued from pg. 1)

The creation of Adam, and the extraction of Eve from him, was not some random thing never to be repeated. It gets repeated again and again and again. Not the act itself—that is, the act of pulling Eve out—but the act of God creating people and putting them together to cure loneliness. (God creates the loneliness; then He cures it. He has to create it before He can cure it. Has He ever done this to you? Well, He’s doing it for you, not to you.)

God did not invent two sexes simply to keep the race going. The sexes are, first and foremost, a living and accessible parable enabling us to understand 1) how God and Christ are, 2) how God is with us, and 3) how Christ is with His body. It’s all about companionship and a cure for loneliness. Remember, the truth is the same; only the picture changes. It started in the Garden of Eden when Adam looked at all the animals and said, “Were is *my mate*?”

“Not good is it for the human for him to be alone. I will make for him a helper as his complement.”
—Gen. 2:18

I know I already quoted that verse, but here it is again. This simple statement should knock you over with truth about God. I’m plugging you in here.

Warm and fuzzy

This is the first whiff in scripture of emotional affection and love. It’s the first “warm and fuzzy” passage in the Bible. Again, the bottom line of it is a desire for company and a cure for loneliness. It’s about companionship. We all need companionship. Even God needed companionship. Even Christ needed it. All of this earthly companionship stuff is a picture, folks.

Before this “warm and fuzzy” passage in Genesis, we witnessed God’s amazing power when He re-arranged the chaos of Earth in the wake of the disruption. Okay, so God has really, really big muscles. Look what He can do! But! Does God have a heart? Does He care about our feelings? Sure, He can make a sun and a seal and an anteater, but will He pull us to His bosom and pet us? Oh, yes. ■

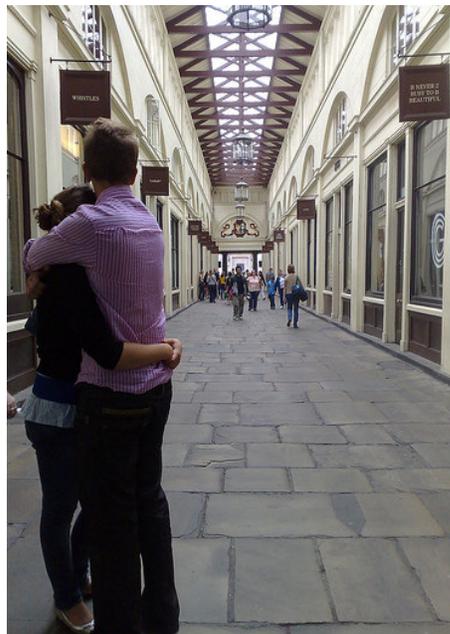
Made in the image of God—but how?

God is a spiritual being, and with the exercise of His power we see that spirit. But what is spirit? God is also love (ah, that we know about), and in the creation of Adam and the statement, “I don’t want him to be alone; he needs a companion,” we see God’s love.

It’s strange in a way because God makes everything in six days and then calls it all “very good.” And it is very good. But in His mind there is still a lack, and the lack has to do with a knowledge of evil as well of a knowledge of good. See that tree over there? That’s the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve *have* to eat of that tree to know evil as well as good. They have to know contrast in order to fully partake of and understand God’s deepest affections.

If you are a person of love—or let’s say you’re God and your essence is love—then being alone is horrible. Love is full of affection; it *is* affection. Love needs to lavish that affection on an object and it needs the object to lavish it back.

God planted this in humanity, and we are made in His image. ■



What a Revelation!

THE EONIAN TIMES ARE ALL ABOUT COMPANIONSHIP



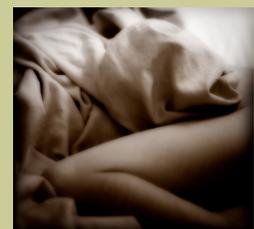
One of the earliest episodes in the history of the universe was the creation of Christ (Rev. 3:14). At the root of this was God’s desire

for company and love and reciprocated love. The very last thing that happens in the eonian times is that God becomes “all in all” (1 Cor. 15:28). Talk about realizing a longing! At this time, God embraces everyone and everything He has created. There is love and reciprocated love, and no one is lonely. Beings that were steeped in enmity now run to God because of the experience of evil. This satisfies God, Christ, and His creatures. ■

Q&A

What does the King James mean when it says that God made for Adam “an help meet for him?”

I often hear this as, “helpmeet,” but what the heck is that? We’re looking at two words here: a help *meet*” for Adam, “meet” being Archaic for “well met.” What the KJ boys meant was that God made someone who was *proper* for Adam, or *fit* for him. The Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures), says that God made for Adam a help “according to” him. I guess that means, “like” him. The best translation seems to be the one from the Concordant version, which is that God made for Adam, “a complement.” A complement is that which completes or perfects the whole, and that is exactly what Eve does for Adam—especially under the sheets. ■



Rants & Stuff

The Apostle Paul says we should not murmur (Philippians 2:14). Therefore, I shall rant.

Suffering for love



Great stories like Prince Charming and Cinderella stimulate us because we are moved when we watch people suffer for the ones they love. Love inspires suffering, and suffering inspires love. This is not in humanity by accident. God also suffers for love; He does this through His Son.

The summer of my high school graduation, my friend Jim Szittai and I decided to bicycle around Lake Erie. We pedaled up to Cleveland and started going clockwise around the lake. We were really excited to cross into Canada from Detroit because we had never bicycled through a foreign country. I believe we were in the town of Leamington when we met up with two nice-looking girls at an ice-cream stand.

Now, at this point in our lives (and continuing to the present), neither one of us knew very much about girls, and certainly not about women. All we knew was that they looked much better than us and we wanted to be close to them. After that, we were scared to death of them.

The girls found out that we were bicycling around Lake Erie, and they seemed impressed. They asked where we were camping, and we told them. They said, “We’ll stop by later.” We tried to act cool. I said, “Y-y-y-you will?” Jim dropped a whole glob of ice-cream on his shirt and said, “O-o-o-kay.” Then we went back to our tent and officially freaked out.



“I want Anne,” said Jim.

“No, I want Anne,” I said.

“You take Brooke,” said Jim.

“But damn it, I want Anne.”

On it went. Fifteen minutes later, a car roared by and a horn honked. Anne and Brooke were in the car with their boyfriends, waving like lunatics as they sailed past our campground at 60 miles per hour.

Jim and I played checkers until dark—after breathing a huge sigh of relief.

See what I mean about suffering for love? ■

Hippopotamus not so great for first man



Poor Adam had no company, at least none that He truly desired. The hippopotamus was okay, but not *that* great. As far as creature comforts went, he was set. Adam had oranges and apples and bananas and kiwi.

Just the name of the garden ought to tell you that Adam had it made. The name of the garden was Eden, which in Hebrew means “luxury.” Whatever most people covet today (except perhaps for dark chocolate), Adam had in droves.

I can’t seem to stop talking about the fruit: it was juicy and tasty and Adam didn’t have to work hard growing or preparing it. It wasn’t Adam’s belly that was hungry, it was his heart. His heart fluttered whenever he saw the animals cavorting around (except for the hippos). He tried studying the giraffes.; they were not too hard to look at—better than the hippos—but it was still a “no-go.” Same deal with the

Yeah, well *that* guy not so hot either.



elephants; nice, but no real sparks flying—you know?

Why couldn’t God have made a spiritual being for Adam? The spirit beings were even less like him than the hippos and the elephants. Hells bells, Adam would have had a better go with a wallaby than with a non-flesh *whatever*. A complement has to be somewhat like the thing it is completing. Additionally, a complement has to fill a lack. The problem with Adam was that he had no desperate lack. Oh, he felt that little twitter when he watched the wombats having sex, but he had no *desperate* lack. (Focus on the “desperate” part, please.)

So a part of Adam was removed and fashioned into another human being who was fairly like him, but with some eye-arresting differences. When these two come together from this time forward, they will become “one flesh,” and we will see humanity complete again. ■ (To be continued.)