

Trusting in the Goodness of God

God's Goodness Displayed in Provision

Genesis 2:4-25

God's Provision of Partnership

Genesis 2:18-23

God designed humanity to fulfill His purposes through the partnership of marriage.

1. The _____ for a partner.
 - a. God _____ the need.
 - b. God _____ the need.

2. The _____ of the partnership.
 - a. To provide for the _____ of life.
 - b. To _____ the nature and character of God to the world.
 - c. To display the _____ of God's love.

3. The _____ of partnership.

Questions for Discussion

- What need does God identify in v 18? Is this pre or post fall? What does this say about how God designed men and women? How does this contradict our cultural beliefs? Your beliefs?
- "Helper" has been used to suggest subordination or even inferiority, but look at this same word in the following passages: Deut. 33:7, 26, 29; Ps. 33:20; 146:5*. Who is the "helper" in these passages? Discuss this as it relates to the respective roles of the man and woman.
- "Suitable" means "according to the opposite" or "counterpart." What does this suggest about the similarities and differences between men and women? What attitude should we have toward the differences?
- With what is the woman to help the man (cf. 1:28 and 2:15)? Why is a partnership needed to fulfill these purposes? Is marriage really necessary?
- How do our personal desires and purposes for marriage distort God's design. How would our view of marriage change if we focused on God's purposes and not our own?



TRUSTING IN THE
GOODNESS OF GOD

*HIS GOODNESS DISPLAYED
IN PROVISION*

Genesis 2:4-25

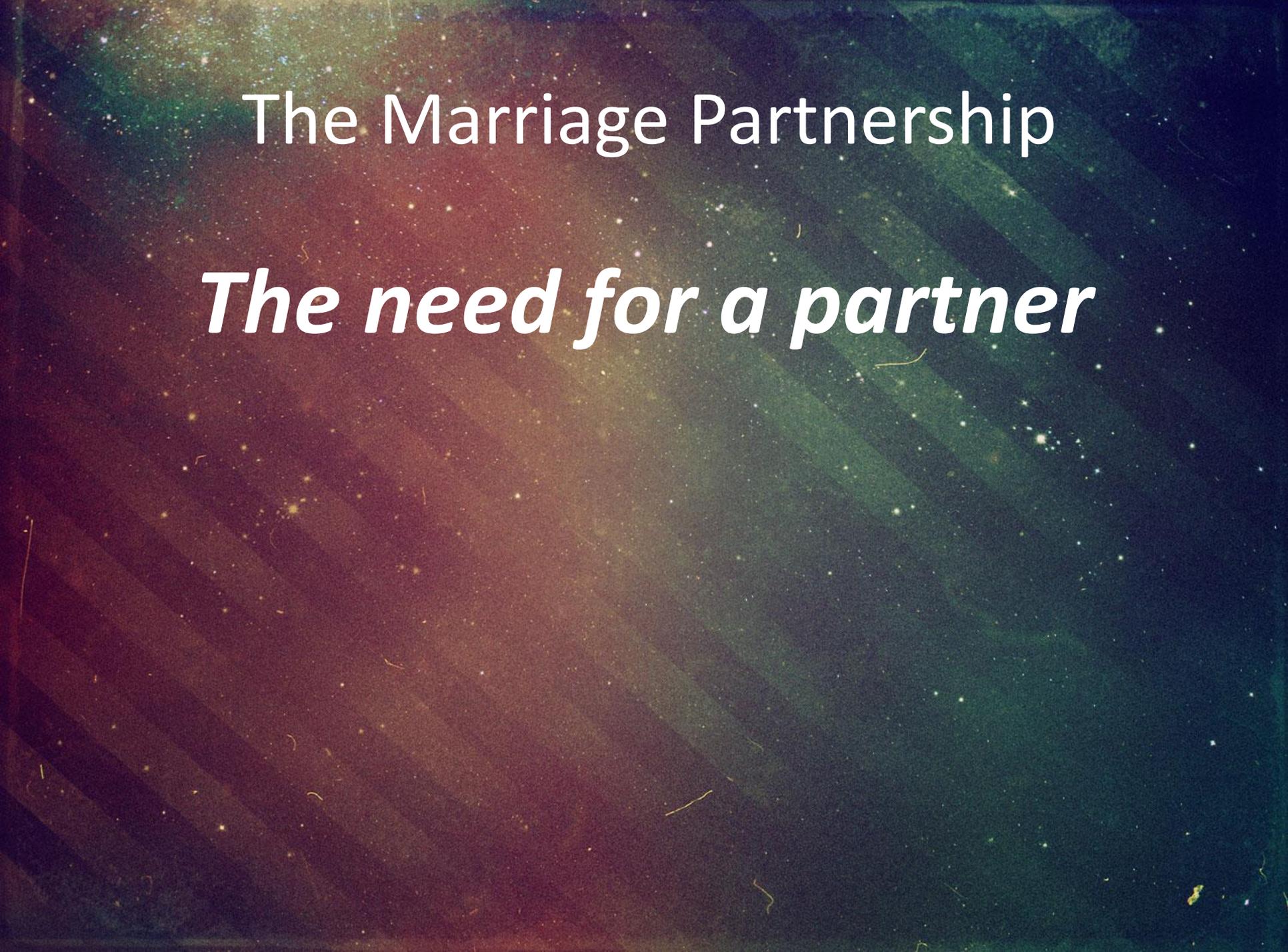


GOD'S PROVISION OF PARTNERSHIP

(PART ONE)

Genesis 2:18-24

God designed humanity to
fulfill His purposes through the
partnership of marriage.

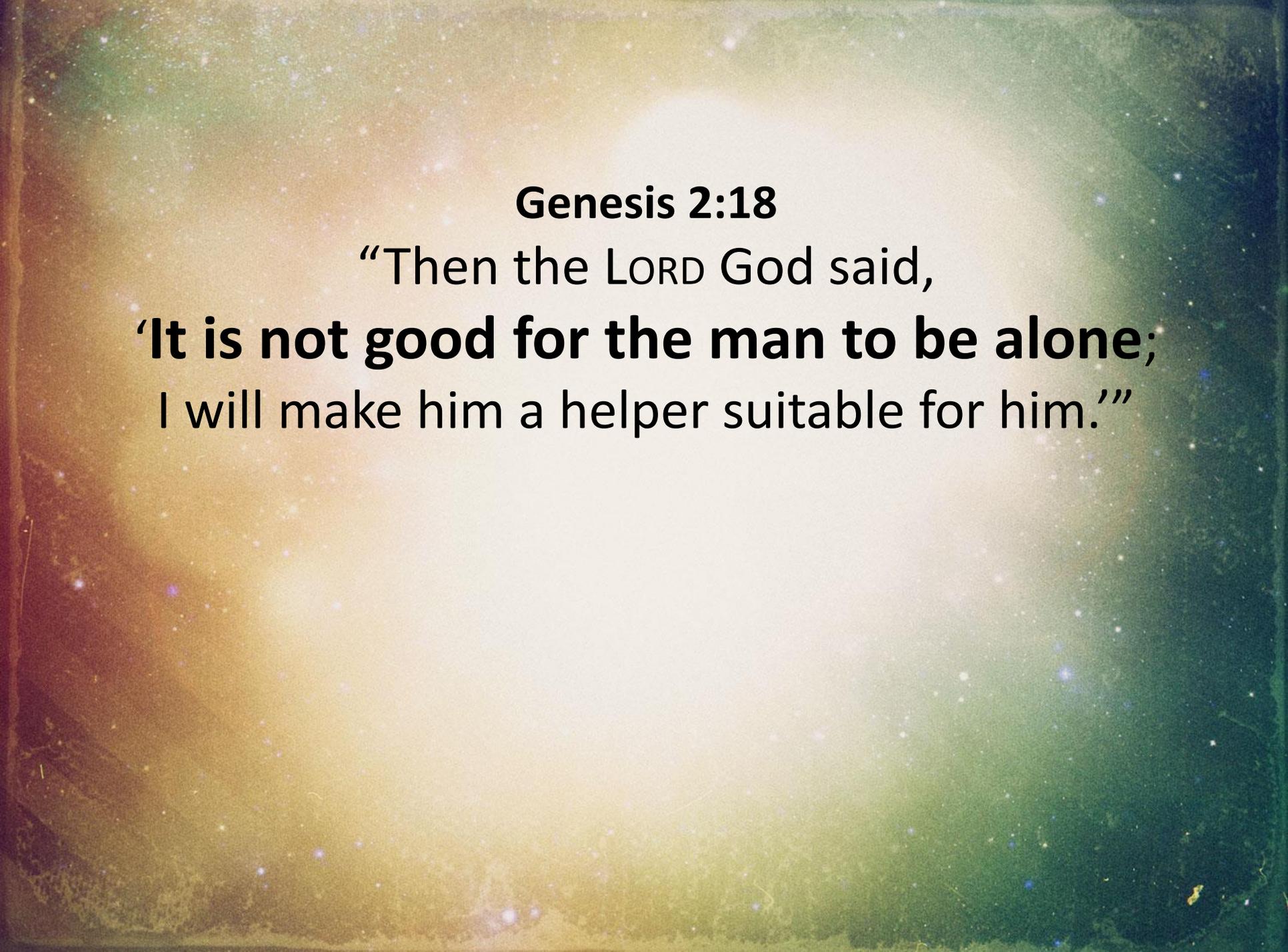


The Marriage Partnership

The need for a partner

The need for a partner

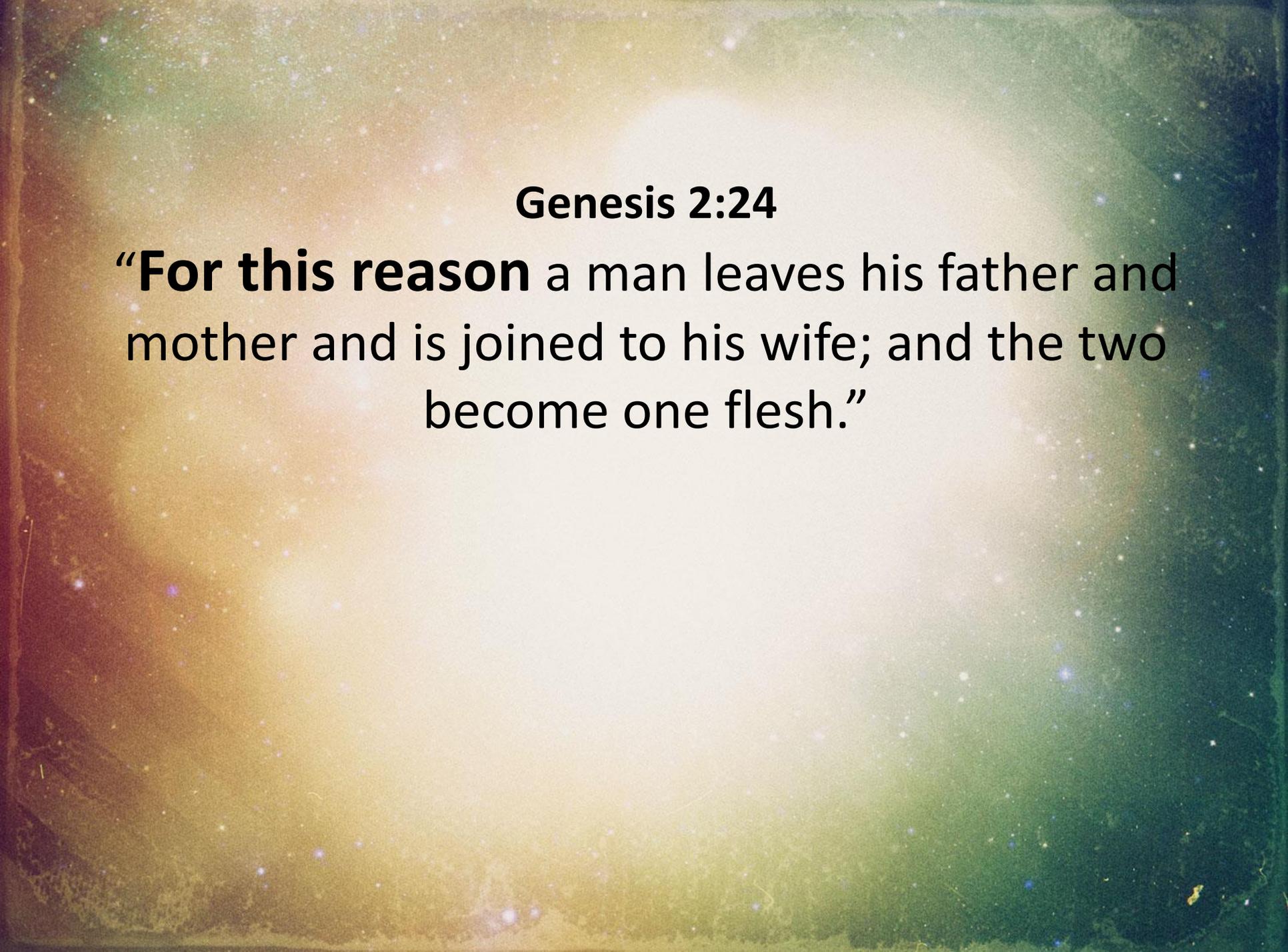
God designed the need.



Genesis 2:18

“Then the LORD God said,
‘It is not good for the man to be alone;
I will make him a helper suitable for him.’”

God created man as an
incomplete being possessing an
inherent need for woman.



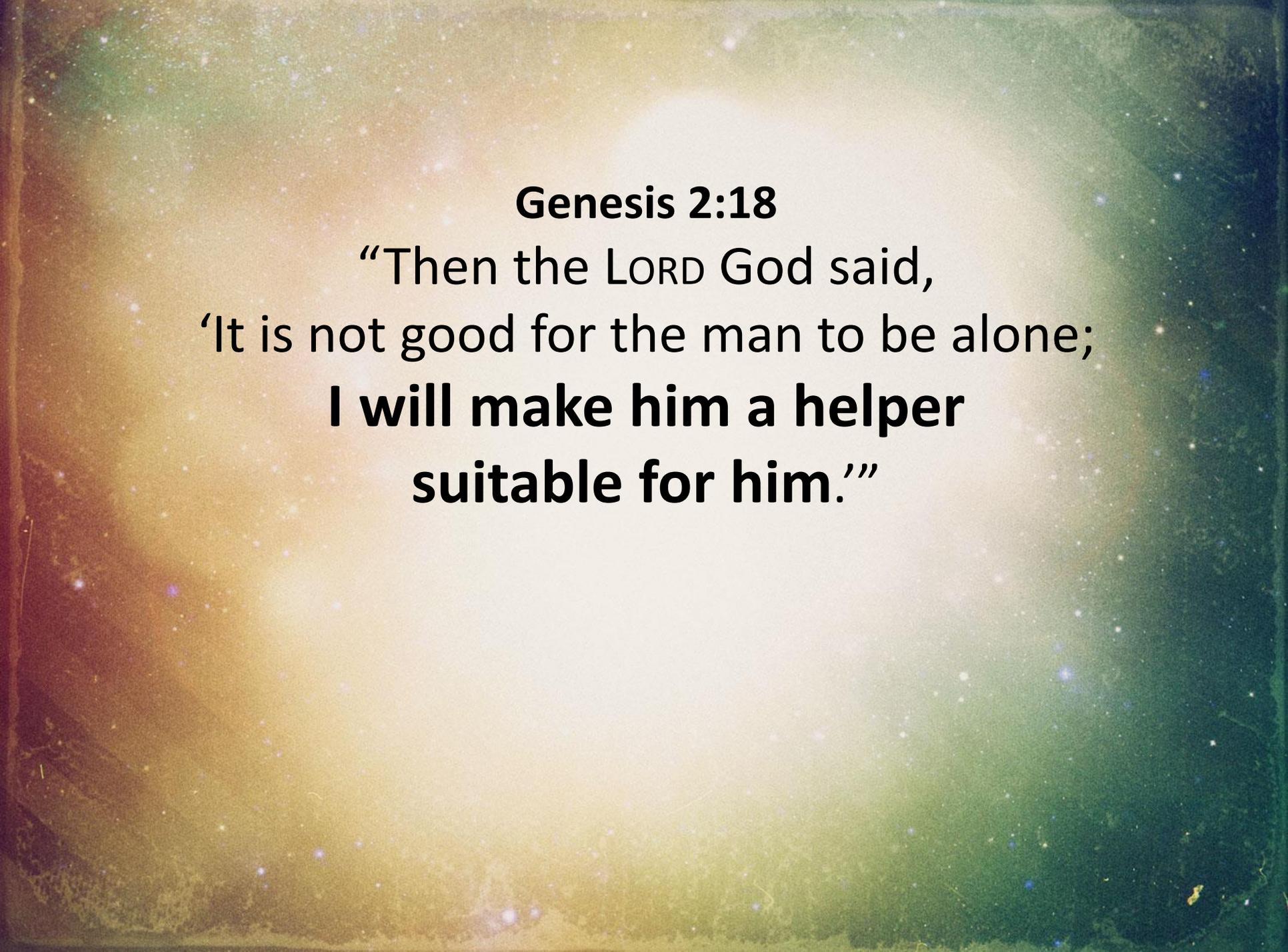
Genesis 2:24

“For this reason a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife; and the two become one flesh.”

The need for a partner

God designed the need.

God met the need.



Genesis 2:18

“Then the LORD God said,
‘It is not good for the man to be alone;
**I will make him a helper
suitable for him.’”**

That which is “not good” for Adam is made good by God’s provision of a wife.

“It is not good...[so] I will make him a helper...”

The meaning of “Helper”

Deuteronomy 33:7

"Hear, O LORD, the voice of Judah, And bring him to his people. With his hands he contended for them; And may You be a **help** against his adversaries."

Psalm 33:20

"Our soul waits for the LORD;
He is our **help** and our shield."

Psalm 121:2

My **help** comes from the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth."

The meaning of “Helper”

Eve was designed as a co-equal partner to Adam for the fulfillment of God’s purposes for humanity.

***Her role as helper is comprehensive;
it is not limited to child bearing.***

The meaning of “Suitable”

This term literally means:
“according to what is in front of him
or opposite him”

*In other words, Eve was Adam’s
counterpart or complement.*

Implications

God made men and women to need each other.

By design men and women are different.

These differences should be celebrated.

God designed marriage to unite these differences for the fulfillment of His purposes.

Marriage should be held in the highest regard.

The Marriage Partnership

The need for a partner

***The purpose of the
partnership***

God's purpose for marriage

To provide for the flourishing of life.

Genesis 1:28

“And God blessed them; and God said to them,
"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth,
and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea
and over the birds of the sky, and over every
living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 2:15

“Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the
garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.”

God designed marriage and the resulting family as the foundation for a flourishing world.

God's purpose for marriage

To provide for the flourishing of life.

To reflect the nature and character of
God to the world.

Genesis 1:26-27

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and **let them rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them.**”

It is not good for man to be alone
because he cannot fulfill his
representational role alone.

God's purpose for marriage

To provide for the flourishing of life.

To reflect the nature and character of God to the world.

To display the gospel of God's love.

Ephesians 5:31-32

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.”

Implications

Marriage is God's creation for God's purposes.

Marriage is not primarily about you.

Marriage is redefined and devalued at our peril.

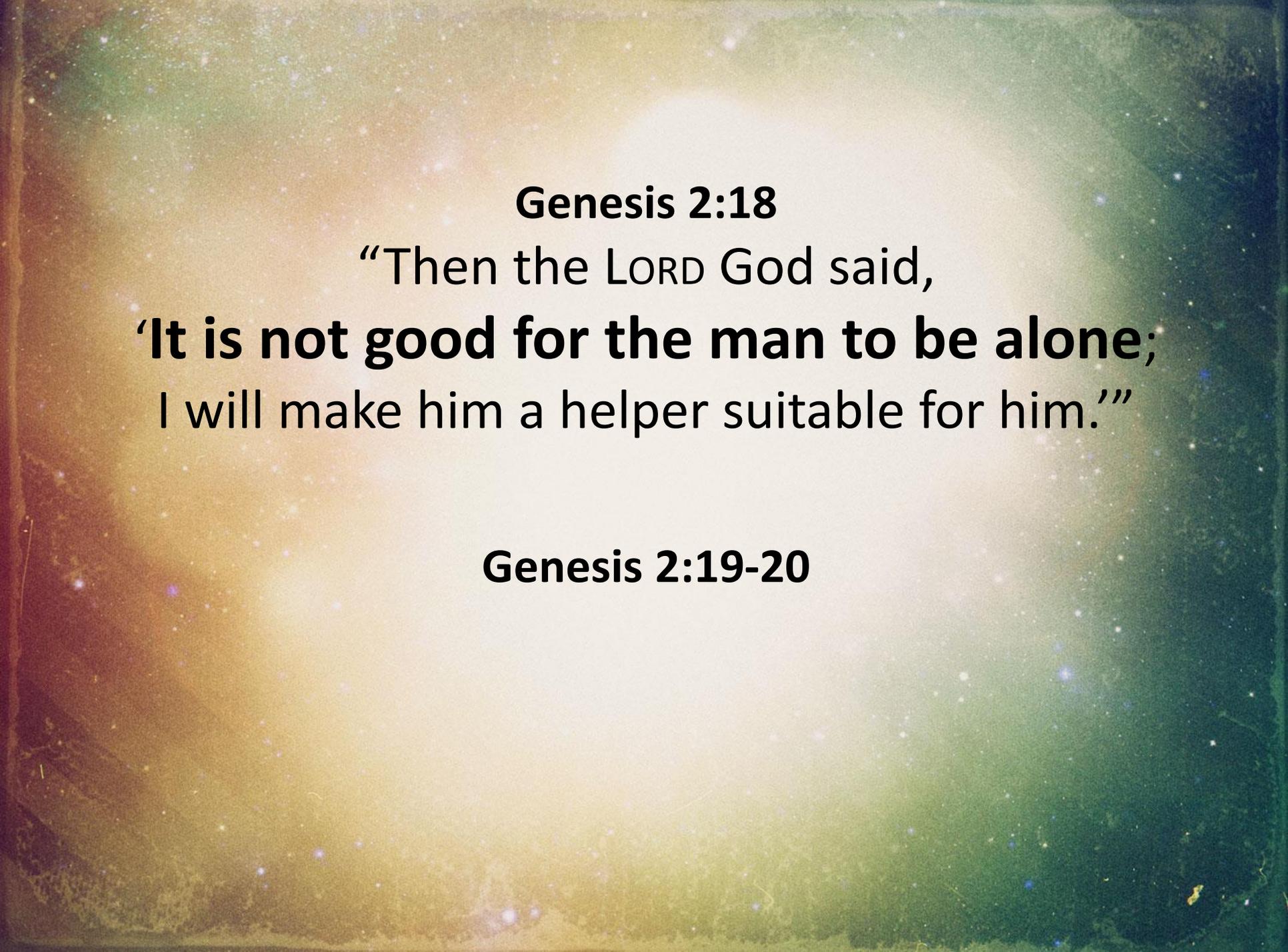
It is right to promote and honor marriage.

The Marriage Partnership

The need for a partner

The purpose of the partnership

***The imperative of the
partnership***



Genesis 2:18

“Then the LORD God said,
‘It is not good for the man to be alone;
I will make him a helper suitable for him.’”

Genesis 2:19-20

Key Questions to Consider

How much have you allowed our culture to shape your beliefs about marriage?

Are you willing to let God inform your understanding of reality in this area?

If married, are you focused on fulfilling God's purposes for your relationship?

If not married, are you contentedly preparing yourself to be a husband or wife.