The First Woman

Genesis 2:18–25

Sermon Notes:

Prayer Requests:

1. What insight, principle, or observation from the message did you find most helpful, most challenging, or most troubling? Please explain.

2. If you asked the question, "what does it mean to be a woman?" to someone today, what kinds of answers might you hear? Before Sunday, what would your answer have been?

3. In what ways, generally, do men and women tend to behave differently? Do you see any of these differences reflected, represented or explained in Genesis 2?

4. Respond to this idea that "just like Adam needed Eve to complete him, so a man needs a woman to complete him." In there any sense in which this idea is correct or helpful? Is there any sense in which this idea is incorrect or unhelpful?

5. Review the question: "Does 'hold fast' in Genesis 2:24 imply physical union or covenant faithfulness?" Consider the following passages, where the same word is translated in various ways: Deuteronomy 10:20 ("hold fast"), Ruth 1:15-17 ("cling"), 1 Corinthians 6:16-17 ("joined").

    a. What are some conclusions we can draw from this?

    b. How does this help us understand why God restricts sexual intimacy for marriage?

6. Read Genesis 2:24

    a. In what ways does God's pattern for marriage contrast with what we often see in the world today?

    b. Are there any ways in which God's pattern for marriage contrasts with what we sometimes see in the church today?

7. Why do you think so many people today struggle with the idea of a wife being a helper? How does our passage answer some of those struggles or objections?

8. Read Ephesians 5:22–33.

    1. Where are you in this passage?

    2. How are you doing with the role God assigned to you?