

## Two People

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by Bill Crews

**H**ow would you like to be the only person living on the earth? Adam, the first man, was once in that position. How long it continued we do not know, but God who made him (**Genesis 2:7**) and knew him perfectly, said, *"It is not good that the man should be alone"* (**Genesis 2:18**). There were myriads of angels in heaven, and throngs of animals on earth, but man was the only one of his kind.

*"I will make a help meet for him,"* proposed God (**Genesis 2:18**). *"A help **meet** for him"* would be a help answering to his need, suited to him, matching him, for him, complementing him. Then, the God who made man, the God who has all power and wisdom, made for that man, not a host of male friends, but the first woman, not many but only one. And she was made from a part of the man (**Genesis 2:21-23**). They were made male and female, attractive to one another, capable of loving each other, of becoming *"one flesh,"* of propagating and preserving the human race (**Genesis 1:26-28; 2:24**).

The human race thus had its origin, and marriage and the family thus had their beginning. Since then there have been a few billion marriages and families, good and bad, right and wrong. Whereas God originated marriage and designed it to be monogamous and life-long (**Matthew 19:4-6**), man originated sin, polygamy, fornication, adultery and divorce. J. Edward Nowlin wrote: *"Marriage is at once, potentially, the most blissful or the most miserable state of living in the world."* How true!

Two people can become husband and wife, loving each other deeply, respecting God's sovereign right to govern their lives and their marriage, committed to marriage as a life-long contract, determined to accept and discharge their marital responsibilities, unselfishly committed to promoting the other's welfare, resolved that their love will grow with the years, ready to be patient and understanding, and decided that they will always communicate and express their feelings, and, as a result, have a very happy marriage and live very rewarding lives.

Or, two people can become husband and wife, and then, in spite of any prior love for each other, and in spite of any solemn vows made before God and men, become selfish, critical, impatient, unkind, unbending, suspicious, jealous, untrusting and uncommunicative, and, as a result, deal themselves and each other more misery than the mind of man can imagine.

Sometimes marriages are unhappy and fail because both partners have failed, and sometimes because only one has failed — one who has made himself or herself miserable and is determined to make the other miserable also. Often one or both mates profess to be Christians, but practice has given way to mere profession. One of the most miserable creatures on earth is a Christian, sometimes a very strong Christian, who has given up faith, forsaken the Lord, caused his or her marriage to fail, and rationalized that there is no solution but to terminate the marriage — just burn all the bridges down!

But I firmly believe that the Bible teaches and that human nature and experience show that failure can be turned into success. Problems have solutions, as long as we believe in God and accept the Bible as His word. People can be convicted of sin, and repent and change. Bad habits can be broken, evil companions can be dropped, lives can be reformed, wounds can be healed, walls can give way to bridges, sins can be forgiven. Stubbornness can give way to reasonableness, harshness to tenderness, hatred to love, criticism to understanding.

One unfaithful brother said, *"It looks like God has made a way to correct every mistake except one."*

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