

The Drama of Scripture: Creation (Part 2)

We are living our lives in the context of a grand story. If we are going to live well, we need to understand this story and our place in it. This story is revealed in the drama of Scripture played out in four acts: Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration. Last week we began looking at Act 1 – Creation. In this study, we continue looking at Act 1 as we turn to Genesis 2 and find several critical implications for us in our day.

Ice Breaker: What aspect of creation stirs up the most awe and wonder in your heart?

Read Genesis 2:4-15

1. What do we learn about man in these verses?
2. What assignment did God give to him?

Steve said:

It's significant to observe that Adam was given meaningful "work" even before the fall. God's design was not for the man to be idle and unproductive. Work is not a curse; work is an expression of being made in the image of God. The creation account in Genesis 1 depicted God working for six days, bringing creation from being "formless and void" to being "very good." Being made in God's image, we continue to bring order to the created world . . . Since "work" is the main thing we do each week, whether or not we get paid for doing it, we need to understand how our work fits into the biblical story. As image bearers, our work is meant to be an expression of the image of God.

3. How does it affect you to know that work (your work!) is part of God's good design and not a result of the fall?
4. What implications are there for you as you think about your work being an expression of the image of God?

Read Genesis 2:16-17

5. What command does God give the man? And what does this command reveal to us about the Creator and mankind's relationship to Him?

Steve said:

This verse flags a critical issue for you and me if we want to find ourselves in the biblical story and participate with God in this world. We need to ***believe and accept that God has every right to give commands and to put limitations on us***. And we need to get to the place where we believe in the deepest part of our souls that His commands and limitations are good. Just as His creation was pronounced good (and very good), His commands are good in the deepest possible sense.

6. Do you believe that God has every right to give us commands and put limitations on us? Explain.
7. Do you ever struggle with any of God's commands that limit you in ways that seem unreasonable or wrong? If so, how?
8. How might it help you to reflect on your relationship as created to Creator as you think about God's commands that limit you?

Read Genesis 2:18-25

Steve said:

These verses establish the foundational relationship between the man and the woman: they were created out of the same material; though different, they are essentially alike, equally created in the image of God; in marriage they leave parents to form a new family unit. Unless we understand God's creation design for men and women, we won't understand our place in the biblical story, especially as it relates to human sexuality and marriage. As you know, many other stories are being told about marriage and sexuality. If we don't understand and believe the biblical story, we will gravitate toward one of these other stories or we will attempt to piece together several stories to try to make sense of our lives (which never works).

9. What are some of the implications of God's creation design for men and women; of human sexuality and marriage?