

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; And thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you, Just as you have said!
Amos 5:14

Store In My Heart Philippians 1:3-5

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

This greeting of thanksgiving and joy expressed by Paul regarding the relationship he had with these brethren is evident throughout the letter. Even his imprisonment could not keep him from these feelings.

This joy was a result of the continued support and communication he received from these brethren. From the time he first worked with them until his story ends it seems these brethren were in contact with help and encouragement. It is good to have brethren who are willing to help one another, and this was certainly the case with those in Philippi. We do well when we emulate such brethren today.



God's First Institution

Jerry Henderson

The Bible (I write with the assumption that our readers believe the Bible to be God's word) begins with these words: *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"* (**Genesis 1:1**). Later in the chapter (**v. 27**) are these words: *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."* Then the text says: *"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet (suitable for him or his counterpart jlh) for him"* (**Genesis 2:18**). Verses **19** and **20** informs us that God created every creature and Adam gave them names, *"but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him."* Later when God gave the Law to Israel the practice of bestiality is expressly condemned (**Leviticus 20:15-16; Deuteronomy 27:21**). So, since there was not found a help "meet" for man among all the creatures on earth, God made from one of Adam's ribs a woman and *"brought her unto the man."* (**v 22**). Now, note **Genesis 2:23-24**: *"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."*

The statement in **Genesis 1:24** indicates the commitment that is made in the marriage relationship. The word *"therefore"* indicates reason or purpose, that is, because woman was made as man's counterpart. So, because she is his counterpart or *"help meet"*, the man is to leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife. **Genesis 1:25** refers to this first couple as *"the man and his wife"*, that is, they became one flesh. Adam had no father and mother to leave, since he and Eve were created by God and did not come into this world through the natural birth process. These instructions, therefore, are for all mankind from that time forward. Therefore we must understand what is meant by the words *"leave"* and *"cleave."*

In leaving father and mother there is a relationship that must be severed, the man/woman are no longer under the authority of father and mother. The word “*leave*” means to forsake completely, “to abandon”. Certainly, this does not negate the command to “*honor*” father and mother (**Matthew 15:4**), but rather, emphasizes the need for one who takes a mate to renounce the “rule” or “authority” of their parents over this new “home” or “household” being brought into existence. One author compared this to the cutting of the umbilical cord when a baby is born. A baby cannot grow and develop until the umbilical cord is cut. A marriage cannot grow and develop as it should until there has been a real leaving of father and mother. When they “*leave*” father and mother, they “*cleave*” to each other. This is the commitment they make to be faithful to each other. The word “*cleave*” comes from a Greek word which means: 1) to glue upon, glue to; 2) to join one’s self to closely, cleave to, stick to (Thayer). This emphasizes the permanency of marriage, it is until death parts them (**Romans 7:1-2; 1Corinthians 7:39**). When this “*leaving*” and “*cleaving*” takes place, the man (husband **Genesis 3:6**) and his wife become one flesh, that is, they are joined together by God; and Jesus, in his discussion of this permanent relationship said: “*What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder*” (**Matthew 19:6**).

Earlier in the creation story (**Genesis 1:28**) God had told them to: “... *Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth ...*” and remember this instruction was given BEFORE they sinned and were cast out of the garden. So, from the beginning, God’s intention for husband and wife was that they bear children fulfilling his plan in establishing the home (family). This flies in the face of the humanist teaching that monogamy is: not a good idea; a societal invention and not divine in origin. You will also notice that nowhere in the Bible did a home (family) ever consist of two males or two females and their offspring. In the first place two of the same sex coming together in an effort to form such a union is an abomination to God. (**Leviticus 18:22; 20:13**); and in the second place it is a physical impossibility. Thus, God’s first institution consists of a husband (male) and wife (female) producing children as a result of their becoming one flesh. This involves many and varied responsibilities as shall be discussed in later articles.

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Alaina Adcock Berryhill is better after being in the hospital to get her blood sugar regulated

Amy Simpson has been dealing with pain in her back

Deberah Brooks has been dealing with stomach problems

Leta Rivera is moving to Hot Springs Country Club Village Retirement Community at the end of the month

Tommy Robinson is in a Nursing home in Hot Springs

Jimmy & Annette Gray are in North Carolina

Sunday @ 5 - **Jeremiah 6:1** Wednesday @ 7 - **Singing**

Gospel Meeting - Michael Green - September 27-October 1