

## Harmony

What is harmony?

- A pleasing combination of multiple different simultaneous notes and progressions

What are examples of harmony?

What is the opposite of harmony?

- Dissonance
- Disarray
- Monotony

What is God's design for humanity and our world?

How should we live?

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## In Perfect Harmony Genesis 2:4-25

[ref.ly/Ge2;niv](https://ref.ly/Ge2;niv)



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## Genesis 2:4

<sup>4</sup> This is the account of  
 the heavens and the earth  
 when they were created,  
 when the Lord God made  
 the earth and the heavens.

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## Bible: Multiple accounts of events

### Gospels: 4 accounts of Jesus' life and work

- Different purposes  
 → different events, different ordering

### Judges 4, 5: victory over King Jabin

- Ch. 4: historical narrative
- Ch. 5: poem in praise of women who were courageous to bring victory

### Genesis 1, 2

- Ch. 1: big picture, God above all, king
- Ch. 2: focused view, God "hands on", priest

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## Genesis 1

Day 1: light & dark	Day 4: sun, moon, stars
Day 2: seas & sky	Day 5: fish & birds
Day 3: land & plants	Day 6: land animals & people

Day 7: rest

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## Genesis 2:5-7

<sup>5</sup> Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, <sup>6</sup> but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. <sup>7</sup> Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Creation needed humanity so it could flourish  
 Humanity: dirt plus breath of God

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## Genesis 2:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, **in Eden**, and there he put the man he had formed. <sup>9</sup> The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were **pleasing to the eye and good for food**. In the middle of the garden were **the tree of life** and **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**.

Humanity needed nature so they could flourish  
 2 special trees: One to eat to ensure life  
 One not to eat to remind that man is not God

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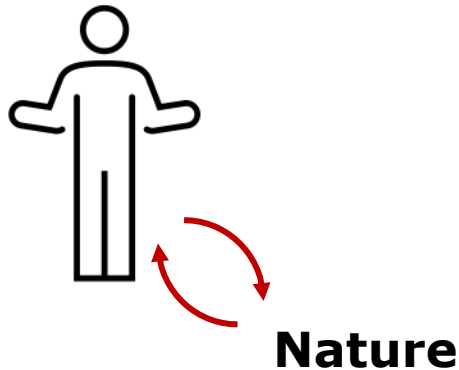
## Genesis 2:10-14

<sup>10</sup> A river watering the garden **flowed from Eden**; from there it was separated into four headwaters. <sup>11</sup> The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. <sup>12</sup> (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) <sup>13</sup> The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. <sup>14</sup> The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

Life-giving water flows from Eden to whole earth

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**Nature needs humans  
Humans need nature**



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## **Genesis 2:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

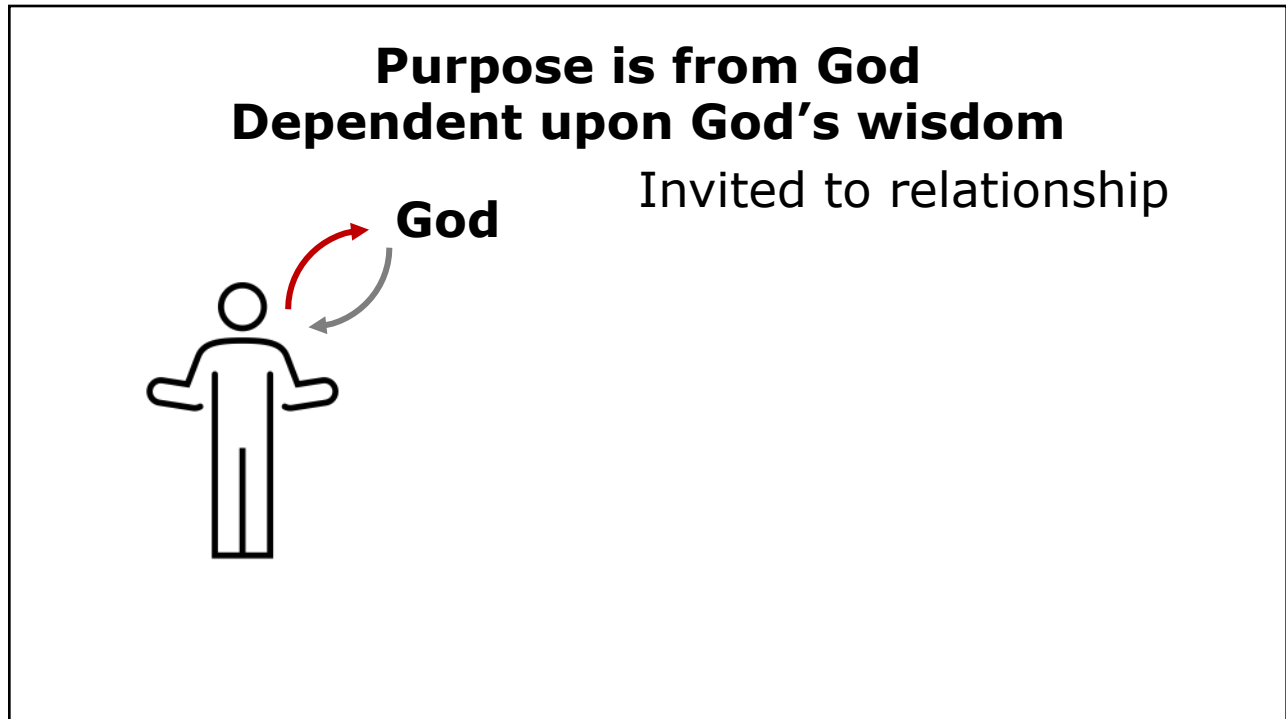
<sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

Given a good purpose

Given abundance of good and pleasing food

Given one negative command: man is under God

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## Genesis 2:18-20

<sup>18</sup> The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

<sup>19</sup> Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

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## Genesis 2:21-23

<sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of **the man's ribs** and then closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> The man said, **Adam needed an equal who was different**  
 "This is now bone of my bones  
 and flesh of my flesh;  
 she shall be called 'woman,'  
 for she was taken out of man."

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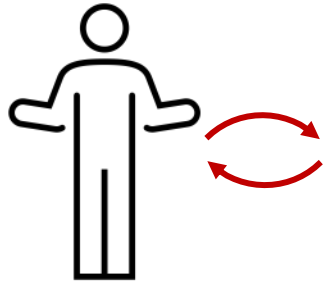
## Genesis 2:24-25

<sup>24</sup> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup> Adam and his wife were both naked, and **they felt no shame.**

**Vulnerable without danger**  
**"And it was very good"**  
**History AND Theology**

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## People

“The woman by **relative difference** but **essential equality** would be man’s fitting complement”

Impossible to fulfill God’s commands alone

### God’s design:

- People: male & female
- Marriage: 1 man and 1 woman
- Singleness in community

➤ Sometimes God’s design & plan are easy to accept

➤ And sometimes they are not

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## The Main Point

God’s beautiful design was to make people mutually dependent:

down → nature

across → people

up → God

**Humanity is not enough alone**

**God is: Deity and Trinity**

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**People can make beautiful  
music alone**

**God could have made...**  
Nature that doesn't need people  
People who don't need nature  
People who are sufficient alone  
People who don't have to listen  
to God  
People without relationship to God

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## God chose to make...

Nature and people whose completeness comes only in relationships

- With nature
- With each other
- With God



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## The Main Point

God's beautiful design was to make people mutually dependent:

down → nature  
 across → people  
 up → God

20



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## Application

**Delight and develop in God's design  
in relationship with...**

- **The natural world**
  - "Be fruitful and increase in number; **fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over** the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."  
Genesis 1:28
  - Study, cultivate, take care of it, use it to serve people, guard it, ...

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## Application

### Delight and develop in God's design in relationship with...

#### ➤ People

- "How good and pleasant it is when God's people **live together in unity!**" *Psalm 133:1*
- "So Christ himself gave [leaders] to equip his people for works of service, so that the **body of Christ may be built up** until we all reach **unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God** and **become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**" *Ephesians 4:11-13*

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"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, **form one body**, and **each member belongs to** all the others."

Romans 12:3-5

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## **The church and its people are healthier when more people do more of the work**

- Making food for a meal
- Setting up and cleaning up
- Nominations
- Youth and children's ministry
- Serving & leading
- Reaching out
- ...

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## **Application**

**Delight and develop in God's design  
in relationship with...**

➤ **God**

➤ John 15:5-8

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"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you **remain in me and I in you**, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you **remain in me and my words remain in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." *John 15:5-8*

- Pray, meditate on God's Word, worship, take action, ...

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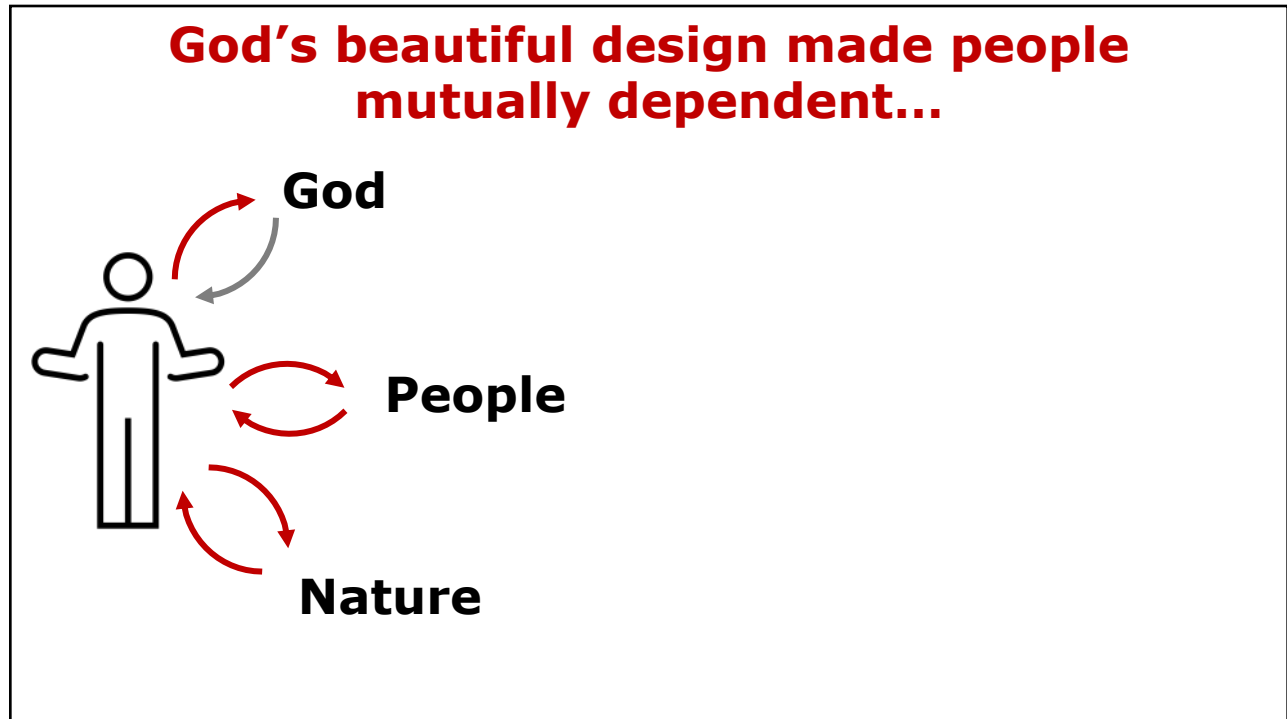
**Delight** in the beauty  
of God's design!

As Adam rejoiced

Expressed by growing  
in each relationship



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“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, **be filled with the Spirit**, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. **Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,** always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Submit to one another** out of reverence for Christ.”

*Ephesians 5:18-21*

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