

# In Perfect Harmony

Genesis 2:4-25



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?

## Genesis 2:4-25

4

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: historical narrative AND 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

5-7

Creation needed humanity so it could flourish

Humanity: dirt plus breath of God

8-9

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

10-14

Life-giving water flows from Eden to whole earth

15-17

Given a good purpose

Given abundance of good and pleasing food

Given one negative command: man is under God

18-25

Adam needed an equal who was different

Vulnerable without danger

"And it was very good"

History AND Theology

Mutually dependent upon 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



## The Main Point

**God's beautiful design was to make people mutually dependent on nature, people, and God**

Humanity is not enough alone

God is sufficient alone: Deity and Trinity

## 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

## God chose to make...

- Nature and people whose completeness comes only in relationships
  - With nature
  - With each other
  - With God



## Sin: Falling short of God's design

## 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, ...

#### 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
- "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
- 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 / ...

#### God

- "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, ...
- "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



## Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Sin is falling short of God's design for our mutual dependence upon nature, upon people, and upon God. Where have you experienced the goodness and beauty in these relationships? How have you experienced brokenness?
2. What does it look like for you to delight and grow in relationship with nature, with people, and with God?
3. In what ways might you be tempted to fall short of God's good design in these 3 great relationships?
4. What does it look like to be filled with the Spirit together? (See Ephesians 5:18-21)

## Conversation starters

How have you experienced beauty or brokenness in relationships with nature, people, or God?