

YOU  
ME  
WE  
AND  
THE  
HOLY  
TRINITY



DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 2 (February 8<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>)

## GOD'S DESIGN FOR YOU & ME

### WELCOME.

**WORSHIP.** *ECHO (Elevation Worship)*

### WORD.

1. Last Sunday, Pastor Elijah preached part 2: GOD'S DESIGN FOR YOU & ME, in which we learned about God's original design for relationships: from dating to marriage, sexual intimacy and identity from **Genesis 1:25-28, and Genesis 2:14-25**. Understanding what the Bible teaches about the divine design and dynamics of human relationship can be very freeing and satisfying. Here are his five main points:
  - A. **God designed humanity to be the pinnacle of creation.** Genesis 1:26 & 28.
  - B. **God designed humanity to be male and female.** Genesis 1:27, 2:15-18, 2:20-23
  - C. **God designed humanity to live within His well-defined boundaries.** Genesis 2:8-15, 16-20.
  - D. **God designed humanity to experience closeness through sexual intimacy.** Genesis 2:22-25What was your biggest take away from last Sunday's sermon?
2. What does it mean to be created in the "image" and "likeness" of God, and how does this distinguish humans from animals? Why does Genesis 1:26 use the plural "Us" (Let Us make man...) while 1:27 shifts to "Him" (created him), and what does this reveal about God's nature?
3. What does the instruction to "tend and keep" the garden imply about the purpose of human work before the fall? How does God's restriction on the Tree of Knowledge (v. 17) establish the boundaries of human freedom and the need for obedience? Why did God put boundaries even around the garden?
4. An important part of God's design for humanity is its binary expression: male and female. The two are designed and made for each other relationally in every category: physiologically, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Describe how the two expressions are designed to complete each other in the four categories above
5. Why did God consider it "not good" for the man to be alone, despite everything else being deemed good previously? How does the world and society distort the goodness of God's perfect design?
6. How does the creation of Eve from Adam's rib suggest equality, intimacy, and a complementary relationship between man and woman? What does the phrase "helper comparable to him" imply about the role of the woman in the relationship?
7. What three actions regarding marriage are established in 2:24 (leave, hold fast, become one flesh)? What does the phrase "naked and not ashamed" indicate about the level of trust and transparency in the original relationship God designed? How does this establish the pattern for marriage as a sacred, foundational covenant?

### WORK. Apply God's Word:

- A. How is God's design for binary human partnership a reflection of the relationship between Christ and the Church? Read Ephesians 5:21-33.
- B. In a world that tries to redefine or even distort God's original design, how can we help each other and the world around us, see and acknowledge the power and importance of God's original purpose in bold but loving ways?
- C. Distortion of God's design leads to bondage. Why is embracing God's design for us the most freeing experience we can have?