

**LEARNING TO GET ALONG - ADAM AND EVE AND GOD**

**Glenn Armstrong**

---

**INTRODUCTION:**

Few people really get along well with each other. Some get along by adapting to each other. Some get along by giving in. Some get along by ranking themselves. Some enjoy not getting along. Some actually enjoy every day that God gives them in harmony, love and peace. I have known some in each group that I have listed. Some stay together; many do not.

Adam and Eve did not get along! Surprised? Yet, they were created perfect, had a perfect environment, did not have any parents to blame for poor training, lacked nothing, had everything, daily talked with God, and never had any siblings with whom they could fight. God created them both perfect, in His image and blessed them both, Genesis 1; 26, 27. Yet they did not get along. I have always wondered why, so I read the same texts over again that I have been reading since 1947. I even read it in the same Bible that I have used daily since 1952.

I have some information to share with you about Adam and Eve and you and me.

**CREATED PERFECT BUT INCOMPLETE:**

Perfect does not mean complete. Adam was the only perfect man that ever lived; yet he was created purposefully incomplete. Even uninhibited communication with God did not make him complete. He was not imperfect; he was just incomplete. God wanted him that way. Being sinless did not make him complete. Living in perfect harmony with nature did not make him complete. He was created to interact with others as a social being as well as a spiritual one, and nothing existed until Eve to fulfill this basic human need for interaction with people.

**CREATED WITH ANIMAL BUT NOT SIBLINGS:**

Adam was created to enjoy the company of animals, but they had very limited social benefit to him. He needed a human companion. In forthright contradiction to all forms of evolutionary argument, the most

human-like animal was still an animal; and Adam was not a sibling to any of them. He was created in the image of God with higher capacities capable of interacting with God the creator and with God the companion.

One purpose in the creation revelational information is to clearly teach that man and animal, while having a common creator and a common environment, still were distinct from each other. One reason given for the creation of Eve was precisely that God purposefully created Adam with human needs unfulfilled with other life forms, Genesis 2:18-23.

### **ONE NOT TWO:**

The first marriage arrangement was made by God when He brought Eve to Adam, Genesis 2:23-25. A major statement in the text is that in human marriage, one and one (Adam and Eve) added together is to equal one, not two. This is to occur without either losing their individuality or equality. Each is to be one part of a whole. It is not as if one is to be added to the other. Each is to become an equal part of a new entity. Biblical sociology never permits the cheapening of womanhood into a secondary human life form. In fact, only Christianity lifts women to the exalted position as originally determined by God.

When two people are really one, they will learn to get along by making the needed contributions to the dignifying of the other and without harming or destroying either. This is clearly, what God intended for Adam and Eve by demonstrating that they became one new unit. From that time on the new unit was to be self-sufficient and separate from the need for parental input, Genesis 2:24. Children are still to love and honor their parents but with a different love than for their husbands or wives.

### **PREPOSITIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE:**

One of the immediate results of the fall of the human race was conflict between man and woman. The English text records God's statement that the woman's desire would be to her husband. This is often taken to imply that she is answerable and dependent on him. The Hebrew word for to is *goo'akh* a word used to express the gushing and rushing of water from a spring. The clear implication taught in the passage is that Eve's original purpose in her heart was to fulfill her interacting relationship with Adam. This changed when sin was introduced to the human race from complementation to conflict. What was harmonious by nature now became a striving for masteries.

Consider what a major difference it makes in the way we use a little preposition. Use an example of the way a husband and wife talk to each other.

1. Talking to each other. This could be very good but it could also imply one putting down the other or one attempting to dominate the other.
2. Talking at each other. This almost immediately suggests conflict.
3. Talking against each other. This clearly suggests the first stages of a war that is waiting in the wings.
4. Talking with each other. This alone is proper and fits the desired goal of God in a husband/wife model. It is two people sharing ideas within the one-person arrangement of marriage, Genesis 2:24.

Any of the above propositions could be used as a translation of the Hebrew word listed above. Yet only one works well in real life.

Unfortunately, the use of the word in the text supports the teaching that a major change occurred when sin entered the human race—a change that implies struggle. However, what is does not have to be. Two people can understand they are still to be one and even in conversation make sure they do not destroy each other. One way to do this is simply to let the love of God take over your life and determine daily to share that love, even in simple conversation.

### **DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE:**

One simple way to group people is to classify them as “givers” and “takers”. It does seem that we tend to have one of the two positions as an overriding temperament. Learning to get along with each other and with God will need to take this into consideration.

1. Taker/Taker: Basically, two “takers” will not make for a happy relationship in any area of social life—unless they both enjoy fighting.
2. Taker/Giver: As long as the giver is happy in giving, a good relationship can take place. However, the taker often wants more than the giver can continue to offer. War may not be open, but the conditions are just waiting.
3. Giver/Giver: Everyone wins. Both enjoy giving to the other. Conflict is hard to occur when giving is the temperament of people.

One of the effects of being born again should be that the love of Christ replaces the original sinful, selfish nature. Nothing is more translucent than the life of the Apostle Paul. Before his conversion he was selfish, a taker, could not stand that believers were permitted to live and he made it his

goal in life to run the believers out of town, Acts 9:14, 21; 26:10-12. What he did not drive out of town he drove under-ground. Because of his self-centered compassion to destroy believers the Holy Spirit inspired him to say about himself that he was, "the chief of sinners", I Timothy 1:15. Following his conversion, the love of Christ took control and changed his temperament, his compassion and he was "constrained" (meaning propelled, taken over, pushed along) by Christ's love that was placed into him by the Holy Spirit of God, II Corinthians 5:14. God expects the same experience to take place in every believer and most likely is tired of hearing our excuses for maintaining and continuing to feed our old fallen nature.

The taker/giver syndrome seems to pre-date sin. The desire to dominate may be seen in Eve's giving the forbidden fruit to Adam. It should be noted that a woman's ability to control a man is a seemingly natural innate gift. I really don't know how Eve got Adam to disobey a simple clear command of God. I suspect it was easy, and a God-given ability. An ability she was given to use when she was to be a "help meet for him, Genesis 2:18. Even a God-given ability can be used in a wrong manner. I doubt if Eve got Adam to participate in rejecting God's simple command. I doubt if she yelled at him, "BE A MAN, YOU LILLY LIVERED SISSY TAKE A BITE!" I suspect she just smiled and handed him some fruit.

Actually, Adam is not innocent of Eve's wrong behavior. Adam was with her when she was deceived. Adam was not deceived. He knowingly refused to submit himself to God's right to govern him by obeying a very simple command.

### **RANK AND SUBMISSION MAKE A DIFFERENCE:**

I am particularly interested in God's statement to Eve following their sin. He said "he shall rule over thee", Genesis 3:16. It is my understanding of this text that God is stating what will take place more than what should take place. Rule is a harsh word that goes far beyond God's intention for Adam and Eve. Adam was told to love Eve, consider her as one with himself and cling to her as a special fulfilling gift from God, Genesis 2:23, 24.

Men have often used Genesis 3:16 to prove their right to "rule" their wives. In doing so, they pull rank over them and treat them as inferior, while maintaining themselves to be superior. This is a very serious condition among Christians as well as the non-believing world and is often taken to the point of both verbal and physical brutality! Such conduct is without support from this text or any other in the Holy Scripture, cf., Ephesians 5:22-

33; Colossians 3:18-21; I Peter 3:1-7; I Corinthians 7:1-40; I Timothy 2:8-15; 3:11-12, etc.

One passage that men run to as a proof text for male domination is Ephesians 5:22, 23, where it is recorded, "wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands" and "the husband is the head of the wife". Sounds simple, but that is not all that is said! The previous verse, 5:21, teaches that husbands are also to be in submission to "one another in the fear of God." Another would include a wife! Surprised?

Actually, the text teaches all believers are to let God develop a "submissive" rather than dominating personality and temperament. The text also teaches that a man is to love his wife "as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it"—a self-sacrificing love that puts others ahead of self, 5:25. A husband is to be the head of the house in the very same sense that "Christ is the head of the church", 5:23—the church for which He died to redeem! Men are to love their wives even as they love themselves, 5:28. In fact, when this kind of love is not present the passage states that the man is not even capable of loving himself, let alone a wife or even God, 5:29!

The desire to dominate is sinful whether it comes from a man or a woman. The domination drive leads to destruction and even death. (Keep reading the Genesis history of Adam, Eve and their family.) People who need to dominate will destroy others; they cannot do otherwise until the love of Christ replaces the love for control.

Ask God to give you the love of Christ each day. You will need it to become the believer God intends you to be. Live lovingly.

GAA/ August, 2007 (f)