

**“To Have and to Hold”**  
*The myth, mystery and miracle of Christian marriage*

Part 1: **“What Was God Thinking?”**  
*The mystery of male and female*

*Genesis 1:27*

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

**I. God was thinking of himself**

- Created in the image of God
- Created male and female

**II. God was thinking male**

*Genesis 2:15-18*

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”*

*The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”*

- A work to do
- A word to obey
- A woman to love

**III. God was thinking female**

*Genesis 2:21-23*

*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 closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*

*The man 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."*

- An intimate partner
- The nurturer of life

#### IV. God was thinking marriage

*Genesis 2:24-25*

*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

*The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

- Leaving
- Uniting
- Becoming one flesh