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For the Life of the World

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture verses are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

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Made for Each Other

Peter J. Scaer



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We were made for one another. Adam was created from the dust of the earth and Eve from Adam's side. In God's wonderful math, one and one made one, and then multiplied into sons and daughters. Is there any greater blessing than family? When it all comes together, a house becomes a home, teeming with life. If God blesses us, then we may add into the equations grandmas and grandpas, aunts and uncles, and cousins too. It's a social network of the best kind. For many of us, the coronavirus has only underlined this truth, as we spend time at home with loved ones or we call those whom we can no longer see face to face.



To be sure, no man is an island. That is the essence of hell—to be alone, left out, and isolated. We have seen such despair depicted in movies and on TV. Could there be any greater sadness than to be without the presence and love of others? God Himself knew that it was not good for Adam to be alone. Though Adam had everything he could ever want or need, he had nothing if he had not Eve.

We worship a God who is one, but also three in one. We confess the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There was never a time when God was alone. Eternally, the Father loved His Son and the Son loved His father, and from that love the Holy Spirit eternally proceeded. As a reflection of this love, so did God create us, a man and a woman, and from that love children proceed, giving us a network of relationships. Whenever we see a family, we are reminded of God's great love and of His essence as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

That does not mean that families are always like the Garden of Eden. There are thorns and thistles now. Sin infects us all. So often men do not want to live up to their responsibilities, and women wish for more. And at every level we are infected by sin, which makes us selfish. But for that, there is forgiveness. We love one another not because the other is always loveable, but because Christ first loved us and still does.

When there is strife in the home, when we are tempted to assert our rights, we do well to think back at the wonder of

Yes, many have made mistakes or have been led astray in this fallen world. Yet, in Christ, there is hope. While the sun shines, we work and rebuild. We are reminded about the great gifts God has given us. This is not about what I desire, or what you want. Love does not think that way. Love strives for the other—husband for his wife, a wife for her husband. Love is patient and kind, not irritable or resentful. Love bears all things, believes all things, endures all things. Do our own lives reflect such love? Not as often as we would like.

creation. We are created equal but we are not the same. We each bring something special to the table of life. A child finds nourishment, comfort, and warmth in his mother. In the father, a child knows strength and boldness. A mother holds a child closely, with tenderness born of a relationship that began within the mother's body. A father joyfully tosses a youngster into the air. The truth is, we need each other. Men and women do together what we could never do alone.

So it is, every child is born into the world in the presence of his/her mother. That is the very nature of things. God gave us marriage to make sure, as well as

possible, to bring the child's father into the life of the family. In the best of all cases, according to God's good design, a child does best with mom and dad, a mother and a father.

To be sure, we live in a broken world. Having fallen into sin, we have made things more difficult than they need to be. We are all children of Adam and Eve, but we remember the strife between Cain and Abel. Things are not easy. We know all about the divorce rates and children who grow up without dads. Too often this is a result of our own bad choices. But we need not lose hope. Our God is a God of restoration.

Rather than demolish, we rebuild. Rather than thirst in the desert, we return to the pure waters of God's Word, to the renewal of our Baptism. We pray together, "Our Father," and we remember that, whatever happens, we are members of God's family. Having been forgiven, we go about the business of forgiveness and restoration. If we feel unloved, we remember that as members of the Church, we are the very Bride of Christ, the one who laid down His life for us, that we might live forever.

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her husband. Love is patient and kind, not irritable or resentful. Love bears all things, believes all things, endures all things. Do our own lives reflect such love? Not as often as we would like. Still, love remains, for Christ’s love is persistent among us. He continues to speak tenderly to us, to forgive us, to cleanse and nourish us. Our Lord calls us to be who we already are, as members of His dear and heavenly family.

Yes, we live in a fallen world, but there is no reason we cannot return to the Lord and remember His love. Too many hearts have been broken, too many lives have been shattered. But the Lord has given us this time for mercy and mending. This means that we teach our children in the ways of wisdom. That we honor marriage, even as we are thankful for it. That we teach our children to honor marriage, even when we have gone astray. There is no need for our children to repeat the mistakes that we have made. We love one another not simply because the other person is always good or meets our every need, but because Christ has loved us, showered mercy on us, and given His all. Instead of focusing on what others have or haven’t done, we recall our own sin and we keep our eyes on Christ, who has had mercy on us all.

Yes, of all our earthly blessings, there is no greater than family. There is no more wonderful thing for a child than to grow up cherished by his mother and made safe by his father. Satan, we know,

What, now, do we do? If we have made mistakes, we acknowledge them. That is the great thing about being a Lutheran, about being a Christian. We never need to justify ourselves. That would never work. Instead, we confess and repent. And then we move forward. We teach our children the wisdom of Solomon, we read and teach them the Proverbs. Having been loved, we love, and having been forgiven, we forgive. Then we step back and consider all the good that we have.

is also sowing weeds among the wheat, always planting resentment, jealousy, and discord into our gardens. Family life is not for the faint of heart. It can be messy, sometimes even tragic. Nevertheless, it is God’s good gift still, as is marriage, which forms the family’s foundation.

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God never meant for us to be lonely. Those who are estranged from their parents can call upon God as their Father, and their fellow Christians as brothers and sisters. In Christ, we are never truly alone. He is our Emanuel, God with us. And in our earthly families we reflect the very love of God. There is no greater privilege to be called a father, a mother, a son, or a daughter. In the family, we have a place of belonging, a place to call home.

To be sure, we live in a world where power, prestige, and money are pursued. Yet there are deeper and more lasting treasures. In a world that has redefined and undefined marriage, we know the greater truth. As men and women, we were created for each other, by a God who loves us dearly. Now is not the time to abandon the truth of our creation, to forget the family, even what it means to be male and female. Now is the time to rejoice that we have been created in God’s image, made for each other, given to love one another. This love, embodied in our love for the family, will be a light in the darkness, a beacon in a world that is so confused. 🏠

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