



TBM Newsletter –  
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Inspire, Influence  
and Impact Lives  
for Christ

By Brandon PEK

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## The Four Cs in Marriage Design

*This following is an extract from the manuscript for the soon-to-be released book tentatively titled “Tying the Knot: Securing the Marriage Union” by Brandon Pek. (Targeted to be published in August / September 2024).*

God made Adam first and out of his right side, He made the woman of his own kind as his bride. Though placed under the headship of her husband, the woman was created *co-equal* to him in dignity and value before God who blessed them as a couple saying “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it” (Genesis 1:27-28).

Created in God’s image to reflect His glory, man and woman are co-equal to each other, with the propensity to conform to His character. They are blessed to be fruitful and multiply, called to serve God and impact other lives. In the redemption reality, they are equally saved and redeemed, equally royal and destined to reign with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

God said to Adam that He would make for him a helper *comparable* to him. The Hebrew word for helper is “ezer”, meaning an ally or rescuer providing needed assistance. The Hebrew word for comparable is “kenegdo” meaning suitable, capable, an exact corresponding counterpart, perfect complement to the other. The woman was made to be “ezer kenegdo” who is comparable ally or rescuer to her husband (Genesis 2:18, 20).

The first woman was later called Eve which means the mother of all living. Except for our Lord Jesus who was of virgin birth, no child was and will ever be born without the complementary union of biological man and woman who share the responsibility of raising and co-parenting their offsprings. Apart from these, men and women are *complementary* and mutually dependent in many other ways as well (1 Corinthians 11:11-12).

Another key design consideration is *companionship*. When Adam named each species, male and female, there was no creation then that was of his own kind. While God created the man from the dust of the ground, He chose to use one of the man’s ribs from his right side to form the woman, thus establishing the “one flesh” principle in holy matrimony (Genesis 2:24, Mark 10:7-9).

The word “tzela” meaning side in the Hebrew language is used to describe the part of Adam that was taken from to form his bride. There are several meanings and significances that can be inferred from the way God created the first woman:

- “Bones of my bones and flesh of my flesh” – though different in terms of biology, physiology, and certain physical attributes, the woman has the same substance, nature and essence as her man (Genesis 2:23).
- Close proximity to the man’s heart – the part of the man that is sensitive and vulnerable, hence he is to tenderly love and protect his wife like his own body, and she is to love and respect him (Ephesians 5:33).
- Taken out of man from his side “tzela” – the woman takes the position of intimacy and honour by his side, and for the man to cherish her with understanding, as heirs together of the grace of life (1 Peter 3:7).



For God did not make another man from dust for this sacred union with Adam, nor was any beast of the field or any bird of the air found to be suitable for this special place. While every creation has their own scheme of things, the design for marriage is between one man and one woman.

God did not make the woman from any other part of Adam's body but chose to take from his side to create her as a comparable helper for him. He did not create the woman from his head that she should dominate him, nor from his feet that she should be trampled underfoot.

God made the woman from a special place near the man's heart as a reminder that the man and woman are co-equal before God, comparable in substance, nature and essence, complementary in their roles, perfect companions with mutual respect and honour in an exclusive intimate loving relationship.



God created man first to be the head of the sacred union with the innate responsibility to love and honour, protect and provide for his wife, and with her help in mutual dependency, steward God's calling, managing well the household and raising godly offsprings together.

## The Four Types of Soil

Our Lord Jesus spoke many parables and one of them is that of "The Sower". He later went on to explain the four types of soil as different conditions of the heart of those who hear the word or gospel of the Kingdom (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23).

- Wayside / footpath – those who hear and do not understand, and later the enemy comes and snatches away the word.
- Stony places – those who receive the word with joy but fall away when trouble or persecution comes because of it.
- Among thorns – those who hear the word but produce no fruit as it is crowded out by worries of life and lure of riches.
- Good / fertile soil – those who truly hear and understand the word, bearing fruit with increasing yields.

In this parable, the sower would scatter the seeds (the word or gospel) across as much of the field as possible, hoping for them to take root and grow.

## Know and Prepare the Soil

Street evangelists or those presented with the open opportunity to share the gospel with small groups or large crowds are like the sowers who "scatter the seeds" and hope for the seeds to fall on some "good soil" and grow.

However, for us working in assigned fields, either in areas of ministry or with specific groups in our personal mission, we can ask the Holy Spirit to show us the "soil" conditions in these fields, meaning the hearts of the lives we are working on and how we might "clear the land and prepare the soil".

This is not to say that we become selective with whom we share the gospel but that we should be in prayer for those lives that you are working on. Pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful and having the boldness to sow the "seeds" in these lives (Ephesians 6:18-20).

As the Holy Spirit shows us the conditions of the "soils", pray for them the following:

- Wayside / footpath – enlighten the eyes of their heart so that they can receive and understand the word (Ephesians 1:18-20).
- Stony places – replace their stony heart, give them a new spirit, and put His Spirit within them when they believe (Ezekiel 36:26).
- Among thorns – God's peace that surpasses all understanding guards their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).
- Good / fertile soil – be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom, spiritual understanding and bearing fruits (Colossians 1:9-10).



The Holy Spirit may show us specific areas to pray for, what to work on and when, or give a word of knowledge or wisdom, or a word in season with the opportunity to sow in the name of our Lord Jesus with deliberation and purpose.

And when we obey and sow, He will work through us to testify of our Lord Jesus (John 15:26).

"Uncleared land and stony grounds" require massive work, and removal effort for "thorny fields". Among those assigned, there may be more complicated ones requiring much work and for these, the Holy Spirit Himself is our helper, and He give gifts as He wills to us as well as our co-workers (Hebrews 13:6, 1 Corinthians 3:9, 12:1-1).

## Basic “Hand Tools”

Be prepared as we go forth in our personal mission to share the gospel. For righteousness sake and with boldness, always be ready to give an answer for the hope we have in us, with respect and humility (1 Peter 3:13-17).

Some “hand tools” we ought to have readily include personal testimony of Christ, praise and thanksgiving to God, and gospel tracts to share the good news in a more simplified and structured way.



Personal testimony is a powerful way to share the message of Christ through our own life experiences. Write your personal testimony down using the three-point approach:

- What your life was like before you knew God? What was / were the problem(s) of sin in your life?
- How Christ was the solution to your sin problem(s) and what has changed for you?
- Describe your life since you became a believer and how has it changed for you?

Praise and thanksgiving should characterise our walk, and like our personal testimony, they should point others to the goodness of God in our lives. Praising Him and giving thanks in all circumstances is the will of God for us in Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Gospel tracts, whether from your church or other reliable sources, is another useful tool. One such tool is the “Four Spiritual Laws / Principles” from Cru:

- God loves us and offers a wonderful plan for our life (John 3:16, 10:10).
- All of us sin and our sin has separated us from God (Romans 3:23, 6:23).
- Jesus Christ is God’s only provision for our sin. Through Him we can know and experience God’s love and plan for our life (John 14:6, Romans 5:8).
- We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord; then we can know and experience God’s love and plan for our life (John 1:12, Ephesians 2:8-9, Revelation 3:20).

The “Romans Road to Salvation” is one where you can walk others through the gospel using key verses from the Book of Romans:

- Romans 3:23 – The problem of sin as part of the fallen nature of mankind.
- Romans 6:23 – The death penalty and God’s offer of His rescue plan.
- Romans 5:8 – The willing sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ for our sin.
- Romans 10:9 – To be saved through faith in Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and His victory over death.
- Romans 8:1 – Forgiven of our sin and set free from condemnation.

Know and prepare the soil, have your hand tools ready to do His work in the fields assigned to you.

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## General Announcements

### Upcoming Events

- Man of Impact Alumni meeting, 24 July 2024, 8pm. Open to past and current participants.
- Look out for book launch & information session for The Boatman Couples’ Program in the upcoming months.

### E-booklets Give-away

The book titled “Navigating Life: Prayer Beacons” (one of three books published in 2021) will be serialised into the following e-booklets for give-away:

- Prayer Beacons (I): Calling Upon His Name (12 July 2024)
- Prayer Beacons (II): Kingdom Sonship & His Will (26 July 2024)
- Prayer Beacons (III): Grace & Victory (09 August 2024)

Go to this link <https://tmb-bp.com/resources-events> to request a copy of the above e-booklets. Allow 3 working days for the first e-booklet to be sent to your registered email, and subsequent e-booklets based on release schedule.

Blessings,  
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