

ACCEPTING GOD'S GENESIS MANDATE

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ... Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ... "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and they were not ashamed. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. GENESIS 1-2

To build your marriage on the foundation God wants you to have, you must:

KNOW	BE KNOWN
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive your mate as God's sovereign and good gift to you personally, not as a fortuitous life circumstance. 2. Be a Student of your mate's relational/aloneness needs. 3. Accept individual differences as part of God's specific plan for your marriage. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pay attention to, and seek to understand your own aloneness needs. 2. Acknowledge your mate as God's primary resource to meet your specific relational/aloneness needs. 3. Reveal your "heart" to them by growing in vulnerability.
CARE	ACT
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take personal responsibility from God to care for your mate's heart and his or her relational/aloneness needs. 2. Practice the discipline of keeping your love and affection in a healthy place. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regularly make proactive deposits to care for your mate's Relational Needs. 2. Commit to a rhythm of relational investments to know, hear, care for, and reconcile with your mate.

ACTION STEP

Have a ceremony in a memorable time, place and way, and accept God's mandate to care for one another's aloneness needs and to strive toward oneness. Be specific about the details. Celebrate and express gratitude to God and to one another.

- Commit to the process toward "oneness."
- Share vows of commitment and openness.
- Pray for your future together.