

*A reading from the Book of Genesis 2: 18-24*

The Lord God said,  
'It is not good that the man should be alone.  
I will make him a helpmate.'  
So, from the soil, the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts  
and all the birds of heaven.  
These he brought to the man to see what he would call them;  
each one was to bear the name the man would give it.  
The man gave names to all the cattle,  
all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts.  
But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him.  
So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep.  
And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh.  
The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a  
woman,  
and brought her to the man.

The man exclaimed:  
'This at last is bone from my bones,  
and flesh from my flesh!  
This is to be called woman,  
for this was taken from man.'  
This is why a man leaves his father and mother  
and joins himself to his wife,  
and they become one body.

*This is the word of the Lord*

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