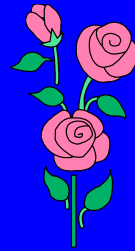


Biblical Reflections on Marriage



Second Presbyterian Church
Greenville, SC
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Introductory Notes

- The Sufficiency of Scripture for Marriage
(ℳ our need for biblical instruction)
- Our Goal: Understanding of the Bible's definition of marriage, its challenges, and God's pattern for redeeming love
- Presentation & Interaction

Seven Week Overview

Week #1 (9/5): Made in God's Image -- Together (Genesis 1)

Week #2 (9/12): A Garden Wedding: The Way It Was Meant to Be (Gen. 2)

Week #3 (9/19): A Men, a Woman, & an Apple: Marriage Fallen into Sin
(Genesis 3)

Week #4 (10/3): Marriage Redeemed: Putting God First (Psalm 16)

Week #5 (10/10): Marriage Redeemed: From Manipulation to Ministry (Col.
3:12-16)

Week #6 (10/17): The Redeemed Wife (Eph. 5:22-24; I Pet. 3:1-6)

Week #7 (10/24): The Redeemed Husband (Eph. 5:25-33; I Pet. 3:7)

A Problem & A Solution

- It was good... it was good... it was good... it was very good...
- “It was not good... for him to be alone.”
- Marriage as God’s provision for our well-being

“Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’”
Genesis 2:18

The Servant-Lord, Adam

- Adam's place as God's image-bearer: Servant-Lord
- Genesis 2:15 – “To work and to keep.” To serve, cultivate & nurture (**db()**), to watch and protect (**rm&**).
- Servant-Lordship demands relationship
- Servant-Lordship requires knowledge

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it... The Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field.
Genesis 2:15, 19-20a

The Servant-Helper, Eve

- What Adam learned from the animals: the need for companionship
- Man's best friend?
- A helper: *what it isn't & is*
- Fit or Suitable for him
 - *Different, but just right*

But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman. *Genesis 2:20-22*

The Servant-Helper, Eve

- What Help Does She Give?
 - *Companionship* (“not good that man should be alone”).
 - *Collaboration* (“work and keep” the Garden).
 - *Creation* (“Be fruitful & multiply).
 - *Completing* (him and his work)
 - *Help in Bearing God’s Image with servant-lordship, servant-help, and giving love.*
- So – men – do you need help?

“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helper fit for him.” *Genesis 2:18*

What Is Marriage?

- When does a marriage begin?
 - *When two people fall in love?*
 - *When two people have sexual union?*
 - *When they are engaged?*
 - *When they start living together?*
 - *A marriage made in heaven?*

Marriage as Covenant

- Marriage is a covenant; it begins with a vow.
- A covenant has the following:
 - *Witnesses, parties involved, conditions, promised blessings, threatened curse.*
- A covenant binds and brings together; it permits and structures partnership

The rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “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.” *Genesis 2:22-23*

Dynamic #1 : Commitment

- Adam accepts her as his own & pledges union
- Total & Timeless Commitment
- Leave & Cleave
- Covenant Obligation (Mt. 19:6; Mal. 2:14).
- Commitment requires *Faithfulness*

“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.
Genesis 2:23-24.

Dynamic #2: Intimacy

- Relationship & Knowledge
- “Flesh of My Flesh”
- “Naked and Felt No Shame”
- Matthew Henry: “Not out of his head to top him, not out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.”
- Intimacy Involves *Sharing*

But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman... And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed

Genesis 2:20-25

Dynamic #3: Interdependence

- Shared Purpose, Labor, & Life
- Interdependence Involves *Teamwork*
- What is the purpose(s) for which you are working together?

“In the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man or woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.”
1st Corinthians 11:11-12

Some Final Observations

1. Marriage is ordained by God as a binding covenant
 - *His authority governs it*
 - *“What God has joined... let no one tear apart” (Mt. 19:6)*
 - *God holds us to account (Mal. 2:14; 1 Pet. 3:7)*
2. Marriage receives its purpose from God
 - *Companionship and help to bear God’s image and bear God’s fruit*
3. Marriage receives its blessing from God
4. Marriage is made sacred as a picture of Christ and His Church
 - *“This is a profound mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church” (Eph. 5:23).*
 - *“And I saw a holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Rev. 21:2).*