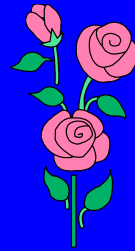


Biblical Reflections on Marriage



Second Presbyterian Church

Greenville, SC

Rev. Richard D. Phillips

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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 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).*

The Marriage Fallen in Sin

Satan's Attack on the Creation, Gen. 3:1-7

1. Divide & Conquer
2. Eve Deceived
3. Satan's Deception: "*Has God said?... You will be like God...*"
4. Adam *not Deceived* (1 Tim. 2:14)
5. Naked and Ashamed

Summary: Satan/Sin Corrupts the Blessing

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

The Relationship Broken: Gen. 3:8-13

The Effects of Sin

1. Alienation from God: Man & Woman turn to idols
2. Alienation between Man & Woman

Commitment turns to Self-Centeredness

Intimacy turns to Shame & Secrecy

Interdependence turns to Conflict

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The Relationship Cursed: Gen. 3:16-20

Curse on the Woman

1. Pain in Childbearing
2. Desire for Control
3. Desire for Husband
4. Harsh Rule

Curse on the Man

1. Cursed Ground
2. Painful Toil (*busy, busy, busy*)
3. Outward Pull

A Poison for which God alone is antidote

To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

Idolatry & Manipulation

The Strategy of the Fallen Relationship: The Rules Outside of Eden

1. We all worship a god
2. As fallen sinners, we worship idols
3. To keep & serve our idols, we manipulate: *domination, control, appease, ignore...* Ja. 4:1-2, “*What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.*”
4. Conflict arises when our spouse “hooks” or threatens our idol.

God's Remedy for the Fall, Gen. 3:15, 20-21

- The Seed of the Woman
– *first promise of Christ,
Gen. 3:15*
- Her name is “Mother” –
Adam as the first believer
- Jesus blood and
righteousness – *our hope
and strength*

“The Lord God said to the serpent, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel...”

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.” Gen. 3:15, 20-21