



Light from the Word

Marriage: God-Ordained, God-Defined

"Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." (Eph. 5:25)

That they (older women) may teach the young women to love their husbands..." (Titus 2:4)

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Gen.1:1) He made everything perfect and designed His creation so that all parts of it would run in perfect harmony.

After each of the first five days of the Creation, when God saw what He had made, He said that it was good. After the sixth day, He said it was *very* good. Could it be that the reason He saw that it was very good was because on the sixth day His creation contained an image of Himself, and this image emphasized the perfection of His creation. On the sixth day He created man: *"in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them."* (Gen. 1:27) The final act of creation reflected God's perfect plan.

God took Adam and placed him in the Garden of Eden *"to dress it and to keep it."* (Gen. 2:15) After instructing Adam that he should not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, He said *"It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."* (Gen. 2:18)

We might wonder why God did not make Adam's help meet (mate, one suitable to be a helper) at the same instant that He created Adam. As always, God knew exactly what He was doing.

For all of the other creatures, He created them male and female, seemingly without the special relationship that He planned for man. At the time of the Creation, God foreknew that Satan would tempt mankind to sin. He knew that man would need a companion who would help him all of his life. Therefore, He created Adam's help mate in a

very special way, with the intent that this relationship would never be broken. Therefore, He *"caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He the woman, and brought her unto the man."* (Gen 2: 21-22) Adam seemed to understand how special God's creation was for him because he said *"...this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."* (Gen.2:23)

To a world that too often relies on science and man's reasoning rather than on God for answers, this account is often regarded as fantasy or myth. However, Paul put this in the proper perspective when he warned us to avoid *"profane and vain babblings and opposition of science falsely so called."* (1 Timothy 6:20) The "wisdom" of this world would tell us that we can do things our own way and ignore God's principles, including the fundamental principles relative to the relationship between men and women. Marriage was defined, ordained and divinely instituted by God to be a relationship between a man and a woman (Romans 1:26-27) and it is intended to be a mutual, lifetime, sacred commitment. (Matthew 19:6)

In any phase of our life if we ignore God's design, there are consequences. God knew what would work and He knew what would not work, so He created a special bond between man and woman. God did not leave us without a clear explanation of His plan for marriage. He brought men and women together so they could help each other (Gen. 2:18) and to *"Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth."* (Gen. 1:28; 9:1) God's instructions to Noah after the flood were the same as his instructions to Adam after the Creation. He had a perfect plan and He did not change it.

— Please turn to pg. 59

Continued Articles

Marriage...

— Continued from pg. 3

Because families need structure, God gave mankind a plan that would result in strong marriages. God's order of authority and the importance of godly leadership within the family are clear: God, Jesus, man, woman (1 Cor. 11:3) and children (Col 3:20). Husbands must take the responsibility to be the loving, godly authority in the home.

God emphasized the importance of sacred faithfulness in marriage. It was not to be contaminated with divorce or unfaithfulness: *"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."* (Matthew 19:6) Many scriptural passages reinforce the need for godly leadership and humble submission that makes a marriage work.

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..." (Col 3:16) Knowing and demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-25) can mold us into a vessel that is useful to God.

The Bible offers much advice to husbands, wives and children: *"... the head of every man is Christ; the head of the woman is the man; and, the head of Christ is God."* (1 Cor. 11:3) *"Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord, For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is*

the head of the church." (Eph. 5:22-23) *"Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor Thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise."* (Eph. 6:1-2) *"Husbands dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor to the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."* (1 Peter 3:7) *"Likewise, ye wives be in subjection to your own husbands."* (1 Peter 3:1)

Finally, we are instructed *"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning the Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."* (Eph. 5: 31-33)

Just as God did not intend for a division between Christ and his bride, the church, He never intended for the marriage relationship to be destroyed by breaking it apart or by being involved in the one flesh relationship outside of marriage.

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:25)

Psalm 25:20-26:12

O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide. Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.

I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked.

I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD: That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.

LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth. Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men: In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes.

But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me.

My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the LORD.