

A New Look at the Old Testament



Sermon Notes
August 6, 2018

The First Marriage

The gift of marriage is a blessing God gave even before the fall of humanity. God's design for marriage in Genesis is echoed by Jesus and Paul, "that a man will leave his father and mother and bond with his wife, and the two will become one flesh." Christian marriage acknowledges God's activity in joining husband and wife together as one. Christian teaching shows us that the key to blessing in marriage is that husband and wife would become each other's servant. The world needs to see Christian marriages in action!

Genesis 1

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female. 28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." 29 God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, 30 for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed.

Genesis 2

18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him." 19 The Lord God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. 22 Then the Lord God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called "woman," for she was taken from man. 24 This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. (This is echoed elsewhere in Scripture by Jesus and Paul.)

Genesis 1:26 - Marriage is the capstone of all creation.

Genesis 1:28 - Husbands and wives were made to rule together.

Genesis 1:31 - Marriage makes life VERY GOOD INDEED!

FURTHER STUDY *for a Deeper Understanding*

Matthew 19

When Jesus had finished saying these things, he departed from Galilee and went to the region of Judea across the Jordan. 2 Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. 3 Some Pharisees approached him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife on any grounds?” 4 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female,” 5 and he also said, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Ephesians 5

21 Submit to one another in the fear of Christ. 22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, 23 because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. 27 He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. 28 In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, 30 since we are members of his body. 31 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. 32 This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.

APPLICATION *for Daily Living*



The Attention Principle

Sometimes what we want to grow is simply a matter of time and attention. Whatever we pay attention to grows. Conversely, whatever we ignore suffers. Let's all begin to pay greater attention to our relationships, especially our marriages.

QUESTIONS *for Discussion*

What married couple do you admire?

Why does God want husbands and wives to lead together as equals?

If you are married, in what way might you better serve your husband or wife?