

Adam & Eve – The Genesis Of Marriage

Introduction: (Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:18-25)

1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... → With this simple but profound statement the Bible opens. It declares God as the architect and creator of life and everything that exists. Everything that is began with God saying, “Let there be...” and there was. Not only did it come into existence, but it was good. For this reason, the book of Genesis could be called the book of beginning. We don’t just see the beginning of the universe, of mankind, and of life... We see the beginning of the family.
2. Since that time, and because of sin, the ideas people have about marriage, children, and the home have varied greatly. Many books have been written and supposed experts have offered their opinions. Instead of seeking the thoughts of men, why not go back to the beginning and see the family as God intended. What did God want the home to be? Marriage is not a relationship designed and created by man. It is not simply the celebration of the emotion of love. It was God’s plan from the beginning. What is it?
3. Before we continue, we need to make an important observation: Every home will not be able to look like God’s original design. Sometimes the home looks very different. It may be nobody’s fault and it may be the result of bad decisions someone made. What do we do? We try to make our home look as much like God’s design as we can. We may not be able to change things as much as we like, but we can do what we can.

A. The Importance Of Marriage:

1. Marriage began with a **need**. Man was **alone** (**Genesis 2:18-20**)
 - a. When God created man, he only created man... He had not created woman yet. He gave Adam the job of naming all the animals. As Adam worked his way through them, he noticed something... they were in pairs. Every male had a female. But there was no female for Adam. This realization had to hit hard. He was alone! God had said everything He made was good... but this wasn’t good. Was this a mistake by God? Certainly not! **God is teaching us something huge by this void!**
 - b. We often think of his being alone in terms of **loneliness**. That Adam needed a **friend**, a **companion**. But there’s something going on here much bigger than that! Man wasn’t alone... Man was walking and talking with God in beautiful fellowship. You may say he is still lonely... but what do we tell those struggling alone or in their relationships? Don’t look for people to provide what only God can!
 - c. The word translated **“ALONE”** here appears 202 times in 179 verses and it never **means lonely**. God’s message to Adam was not that he was lonely, but he was alone in a work God had for him to do (**Exo 18:14,18; Num 11:14; Psa 72:18**)
 - d. To answer this, God made Eve... who God calls a help meet, or a helper, for Adam. This word is also neat... It is used **19 other times and 17 of those refer to God**. Quote: *“Think of it like this. God can do all things alone, but man cannot do the job God gave him alone. Therefore, God gave the man help in the form of woman”* (Keith Stonehart). And as a result, we have the beginning of marriage.
 - e. What was the job? What was the work? (**Genesis 2:15, 1:28**) → Adam was supposed to work and guard the garden. This garden was the place where God met man

in fellowship. This was the very first sanctuary. This garden did not take up all of Eden, much less the whole earth. So, what was God's plan? I believe they were to work it and guard it until it consumed the whole earth. Remember, they were made in the image and likeness of God. As they had children, these would bear that image... the earth would be filled with fellowship! **(Genesis 1:27)**

- f. Notice that as **Peter** writes about the responsibilities of a husband and a wife in marriage, he describes them as "heirs together" of the grace of life **(1 Peter 3:7)**. **There is a oneness, a unity**, in the marriage relationship that exists for **spiritual purposes**. The **home should be a little Eden... a sanctuary of fellowship** with God. From this home they, together, not alone, seek to fill the earth and subdue it through their influence & children who bear God's image! **(Mal 2:15)**
2. In the beginning, God described this relationship as **two becoming one (Genesis 2:24-25)**
 - a. Picture the scene: Adam is shown all the animals and there were two. Adam was alone. God put Adam to sleep, took a **rib**, and fashioned it into a woman. Adam's flesh was divided. **Marriage** is a picture of the **restoration** of the **oneness**. Man and woman acting as one, as if the rib had never been removed
 - b. For this to happen, first God says there must be a **leaving** → A new home has been created. It's bigger than just moving out. The relationship has changed. They are now their own family unit. Parents can't interfere. The couple can't put their parents against their spouse in taking sides. Must let the leaving happen!
 - c. Next, God says there must be a **cleaving** → There's a new #1 man & new #1 woman. They have a devotion to one another that is uncompromising. The husband puts the wife first and the wife puts the husband first. They are inseparable.
 - d. The product of this is **one flesh** → We read this and perhaps we may think sex... The sexual fulfillment is an important part of this relationship we should not ignore, but it is not what whole of the meaning. In fact, the sexual relationship is the culmination and celebration of everything else being right. Perhaps this is also pictured in the way they were both naked and unashamed... yes, that points out the innocence before sin entered the picture, but it was stated in connection to their marriage. **One flesh isn't what a husband & wife do, it is what they are**. They've been forged together by God!
 - e. It's important to note here that marriage is **one man and one woman**. Marriage is not between two men or two women or any other option that men try to create. In fact, the Greek word for husband is the same as man and the **Greek word** for wife is also the word for woman. This isn't hateful, but a recognition of how our Creator designed us. One man and one woman, that's the only union allowed. As they've been joined by God, there is no separating
 - f. Even 2000 years ago during the ministry of Jesus this was a problem. Divorces were far too common. What did Jesus do? He appealed back to the beginning. One man and one woman, joining together as one for life **(Matt 19:4-6)**. Too many marriages are plagued by a failure to leave and cleave. Perhaps they hold onto their singleness while seeking marriage. Perhaps in-laws are too involved. Perhaps they run to parents and friends all the time with issues. A man and woman can live under one roof and yet live two separate lives. God's plan is

perfect unity. A oneness that cannot be divided by temptation or trials. But this takes work. Sadly, sometimes relationships are more like an old pair of shoes... old and worn out but comfortable. Or a threshold... important but never thought of. What did you do to create the oneness? Don't stop flaming the fire!

3. In the beginning, we see the roles of Adam & Eve in their relationship
 - a. When we talk about the roles of men and women, especially in marriage, it can be a hotbed issue. Our world can influence us. Regardless, our ideals cannot be shaped by our culture but our Creator. Are we following scripture or society?
 - b. Adam, the man, is tasked with leadership (**Genesis 2:15; 3:17-19; 3:6**)
 - 1) God made Adam first and the Bible cites this as a basis of his leadership.
 - 2) Later we learn that God saw Adam as the priest of the family (Hosea 6:7) and this role is carried out by fathers throughout the patriarchal period. This places spiritual leadership on the shoulders of the husbands.
 - 3) Adam was also accountable and responsible for his home. Eve ate first, but the scriptures puts the blame on Adam's shoulders. Why? He was to lead. He knew God's law and he didn't lead his family like he should! 1 Timothy 2:13-14 tells us that Eve was deceived not Adam. How did that work? It's likely not that she didn't have any knowledge. But God told Adam the law about not eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil before creating Eve. In fact, when God instructs man about it before and after the fall, God uses the word YOU and it is singular, not plural. Adam heard it first hand. Eve heard it from Adam. This further shows the spiritual leadership God expected Adam to hold. Adam was with Eve when she sinned. Where was that leadership?
 - 4) To fulfill his role, Adam had to value on the help God gave him. That help came in the form of woman, his wife. **Proverbs 18:22** says, "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD." So Adam's job was to honor and cherish his help. Support her help!
 - 5) Part of Adam's role as a leader was his providing materially for his home. Before Eve was made, Adam was told to work the garden. Before the Cherubim, Adam was its first guardian. After their sin, Adam is told that food would now come through hard work. Eve wasn't told this... Why? Responsibility for providing for the home was on Adam's to bear.
 - c. Eve, the woman, is tasked with help meeting (**Genesis 3:1-6**) →
 - 1) This was no insult to Eve! She was special, she was God's gift to Adam to help him. As God's is man's helper, she was the presence of God as man's help in Adam's life! W/O her, Adam was alone in an impossible work!
 - 2) Eve was to help Adam by being devoted to him. When Satan tempted Eve, it is easy to think he is just getting her to doubt God. But consider another option. God spoke these words to Adam not Eve. This fits Paul's words to Corinth in 2 Corinthians 11:2-4. Perhaps Satan was getting Eve to question Adam while appealing to her devotion to God
 - 3) Eve was to help Adam through a spirit of submission. "In creation, God made man, brought forth woman from man, and placed them in dominion

over the beasts of the field. God-Man-Woman-Beasts. In the fall, the serpent, a crafty beast of the field (**Genesis 3:1**) led the woman who led the man who ignored God. Beast-Woman-Man-God. The entire order was turned upside down because Eve submitted to the serpent instead of her husband, Adam. Eve failed” (Stonehart).

4) Eve should have helped Adam overcome sin. Adam and Eve were supposed to be tending and keeping the garden, growing and spreading their fellowship with God, and abstaining from sin was a huge part of this. It sounds like Adam was right there when this happened. He knew God’s instructions. Instead of being his ally in what’s right she became his accomplice in doing wrong.

5) QUOTE: “Sadly, her very first sin was destined to become the sticking point in marriage for all time. When God explained the consequences of the fall to Eve, He said, “Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you” (**Genesis 3:16**, ESV). God was not saying the wife would really, really want her husband. Rather, this is the exact same terminology used of Cain in **Genesis 4:7** in connection with sin: “And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it” (ESV). God wasn’t saying sin simply had a desire for Cain. He was claiming sin’s desire was to rule over Cain, but he must rule over sin. God pointed out that the consequence of Eve’s sin and the fall was the competition men and women have continually had and which has become even more apparent in our individualistic society. She was going to desire to rule the roost, but the husband was to be her head.” (Stonehart)

d. We have a tendency to listen to all sorts of voices when it comes to our marriages. We want fixes that appeal to our reason... answers that seem magical. Yet what we see in the beginning is very practical. Two people, both standing on equal ground having both bearing the image of God, yet they have different roles in the relationship. The husband leads, knowing he is accountable and responsible for his home to God. He leads holding his wife in great value & appreciation knowing the gracious gift God has blessed him with. The wife helps, supporting her husband and submitting to his leadership. She knows the role God has given him and so she greatly respect him. When this relationship follows God’s plan its so beautiful it can be compared to Christ and His bride! (**Eph. 5:25-33**)