

GOD'S PURPOSE IN MARRIAGE

I. THE RISE, FALL, AND RESTORATION (IN CHRIST) OF MARRIAGE

A. God Instituted Marriage – It Was Perfect

Genesis 1:27-31

²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." . . . ³¹Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Genesis 2:18, 21-25

¹⁸And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

²¹And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²²Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. ²³And Adam 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."

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

B. Sin Made a Mess of God's Plan for Marriage

Genesis 3:6-8

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. ⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Romans 5:12

⁽¹⁾ ¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Thoughts:

- Do you own a solid theology concerning your own existence? Do you know why you are here?
- Man's purpose—to know God and to enjoy Him forever. Is this yours?

- Where do marital problems come from?
- Can your wife/husband make you sin? No! Please think and get this; it could very well revolutionize your marriage.
- Is there hope in light of our sin? Yes! Repentance and the GOSPEL! Do you live in these two things?

C. God Restores the Blessing of Marriage Through the Blood of Jesus Christ.

- Failure will be your constant companion! What to do?
- The Gospel, The Gospel, The Gospel, The Gospel, The Gospel.
- A GOSPEL PRIMER

II. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MARRIAGE

A. To reflect God's image as male and female

Genesis 1:27

²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

B. To walk in Unity in order to display Jesus Christ

Ephesians 5:31

³¹"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

God's will is that the husband be ONE in body, in soul, and in spirit with his wife. This unity between you and your wife is more important than your job, your children, your ministry. Here's a question: Do you work hard on being ONE with your wife? And, do you work hard at being one with your husband?

John 17:21

²¹that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

C. To Glorify God By Being a Picture of Christ and the Church to the World

Want a grand vision for your marriage? THIS IS IT!

1. Wives like the church

Ephesians 5:24

²⁴Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

2. Husbands like Christ

Ephesians 5:25

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her

D. The MAIN PURPOSE Of Your Marriage is to make much of God

1. Marriage exists to magnify God!

“Marriage exists to magnify the truth and worth and beauty and greatness of God; God does not exist to magnify marriage. Until this order is vivid and valued—until it is seen and savored—marriage will not be experienced as a revelation of God’s glory, but as a rival of God’s glory.” John Piper

If I am living to glorify God—then my wife’s sins and short comings become an opportunity for me to express the gospel by forgiving, accepting, showing mercy, and choosing not to be angry or bitter!

2. The Key to husband-ing and wife-ing is found in Christ alone.

“Here is the key that unlocks a 1,000 doors. Superior satisfaction in God above all earthly things, including your spouse, and your health, and your own life, (Your steadfast love is better than life. Psalm 63:3), is the source of great long-suffering without which husbands cannot love like Christ, and wives cannot follow like the bride of Christ, the church...Both of those complementary acts of love—to lead, and to submit—are unsustainable for the glory of God without a superior satisfaction in all that God is for us in Christ.” John Piper

3. God must be our greatest love.

“The power and impulse to carry through the self-denial and daily, monthly, yearly dying that will be required in loving an imperfect wife and loving an imperfect husband must come from a hope-giving, soul-sustaining, superior satisfaction in God. . . . Marriage will be preserved for the glory of God and shaped for the glory of God when the glory of God is more precious to us than marriage.” John Piper

4. Our heart-panting, joy-desiring, soul-satisfying pursuit of God brings life and energy and thrill to our marriage relationship.

MUCH OF YOU

III. GOD’S ORDER IN MARRIAGE

1 Corinthians 11:3

³But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

A. Roles in Marriage

Though you and your wife are totally equal in value and importance, God has given you different roles.

1. Husband – head, leader, protector
2. Wife – helpmate, submissive

B. Roles in the Trinity

John 5:19

¹⁹Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

John 12:49

⁴⁹For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.

Just as the Father leads and the Son follows, in a similar way the husband leads and the wife follows.

C. A Glorious Picture of the Roles of Husband and Wife

The husband and wives roles are, first and foremost, a beautiful picture to the world of Jesus Christ's relationship to His bride, the Church. They are united in vision, passion, love and holiness. It is joy upon joy that their essence as a couple is encompassed by the grace, love, guidance and provision of a holy and faithful God. This couple-essence encompasses, flows through, and undergirds their family.

Both the husband and the wife live first for the pleasure and exaltation of God. He is the ultimate source for all that they need. They realize that this is a truth for them individually, and that it is a truth for them as a couple. He is the One they are quickest to turn to in times of anxiety, doubt, fear, anger and confusion. He is, equally, the One they are quickest to turn to in times of joy and gladness. Their relationship with their Lord must take first place. All else is weakened when Jesus is not the treasure, the priority, and the source of true and abundant life. Because it is so very easy for God's children to make idols (truly, we are idol-factories!), the husband and wife must encourage, support and challenge one another with the truths of the Gospel, the glories of the cross, and the wonders of eternity.

It is critical that both husband and wife have a complete understanding of their individual roles in the context of marriage. While they have been created by God to be equal in value and personhood, they have also been created by Him to operate in distinctly different ways. There is dignity, infinite beauty, and absolute rightness in a marriage where both husband and wife seek to bring pleasure to the heart of God by walking in the roles that He has created for them. The heartfelt knowledge of these truths are profound and life-changing when coupled with surrender, wisdom and the grace of God.

The husband joyfully and willingly leads, guides, cherishes, loves, protects and nurtures. He endeavors to seek his wife's best, always. He understands that as Christ "took on the form of a servant..," so he must as well. This sacrifice is a delight born out of humility. It is not a burden. His wise, unselfish, diligent spiritual headship over his wife will yield extraordinary results. He seeks to delve deep with her, knowing and understanding and loving her heart. He knows that he will gain her heart by loving her boldly and passionately. He strives to draw her out, and helps her to understand the things that are deep within her soul. He is equally quick to share his own heart, transparently and wisely. He seeks out, delights in and takes her counsel seriously. He takes joy in his place as leader and understands its many facets. He knows his wife looks to and longs for him to lead spiritually, emotionally, and physically. The husband is constantly on the alert, like a guard on a watchtower. Not only must He guard from the dangers without, but he must also be alert for dangers from within. Bitterness, anger, selfishness, apathy must all be dealt with lovingly, courageously and firmly. And always in truth. He leads, always remembering that God is ever faithful in leading him. The husband truly understands that his wife is a gift from God in which he can rejoice. She is a crown for his (kingly :-) head, and he cherishes and loves her.

The wife joyfully and willingly honors, respects, comes alongside of, supports, loves, nurtures and encourages (cheers on!) her husband. She understands the pleasures and delights of God's ways. Deep within her is a knowing of the rightness and absolute importance of her husband's headship and her yieldedness. She knows that she was created for him, not he for her. She courageously, intelligently, and gladly submits to her husband in that headship, knowing that as she does so she is gladdening the heart of God and bringing glory to His name. The wife's honor and respect of her husband is crucial for this is how she will gain his heart. Trusting in the redemption of Christ, she does not yield to the temptation to usurp her husband's authority. She continually seeks God out in this, trusts in His grace and is confident that He will willingly come to her aid. She understands that she can either build her husband up or tear him down with her words. As her heart is to make much of Christ, her heart is also to make much of her husband. She knows her respectful actions toward him are as important, if not more than important than her words. These words and acts of respect, flowing from an honoring and respectful heart, are important both in private and in public. It is her absolute delight to support and come alongside her husband. She is pleased to be his helpmeet, and knows that this is multifaceted, because life is multifaceted. A wife's availability towards her husband is captivating. She is eager to respond to him, and knowing that this delights him will be a delight to her.