

Subject: God's First Family

Scripture: Genesis 2:18-25

Genesis is the book of beginnings. We find many things that are mentioned for the first time. Here we learn about the first family and God's design for the family. It was the first and only perfect marriage. Think how different this first marriage must have been from all others.

Adam never said that Eve couldn't cook like his mother.

Eve never complained that Adam didn't help out around the house like her father.

They brought no baggage to their marriage.

They had no unreasonable expectations of one another.

Adam had only one to-do list and that's the one that God gave him—to care for the garden.

There were both perfect and their marriage was perfect.

1. God's Original Purpose for Marriage

Genesis 2:18 marks the first time that God said something was “not good.” We know from Genesis 1:26-31, that God created Adam and Eve on the 6th day of creation week. Both were His masterpiece. Over and over we read, “God saw that it was good,” until God says it was not good that man was alone on day 6. Then in Genesis 1:31, at the end of day 6, God saw everything He had made and it was “very good.”

A. Marriage was designed to please God

Everything God did and all that God created was for His pleasure and glory.

B. Marriage was designed to provide companionship

God said He would make a helper suitable for Adam. It was not just friendship, but female companionship. God prepared Adam for his companion by having him name all the animals and in that process he realized that none of them would be a suitable companion (2:19-20).

C. Marriage was designed for reproduction

Genesis 1:27-28 ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...

D. Marriage was designed for nurture and intimacy

Genesis 2:21-23 ²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; ²² And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. ²³ And 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.

Adam was blessed to have Eve. She was like him, yet she was different from him. She was the perfect companion. They would complement each other. (Man wearing a sweatshirt with this message: “A man's not complete until he's married, and then he's finished.”)

Matthew Henry commented: “(Eve) was not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.”

E. Marriage was designed with God’s direct involvement and blessing

God himself performed the first wedding. We are sure this marriage was made in heaven. It was all God’s idea and His work. God made marriage to be a blessing, not a burden. The first couple had the privilege to enjoy God’s garden together and share the blessings of life.

In all things, God revealed His sovereignty, goodness, wisdom, and providence.

2. God’s Perfect Plan for Marriage

In verses 24-25, we find God’s pattern for all marriages. Here we find the principles for a blessed marriage.

- A. The priority of marriage (“leave”) – This may involve leaving the home at the start of a marriage, but it must involve leaving parents as the primary relationship. The marriage relationship is the most important human relationship on earth.
- B. The stability of marriage (“cleave, hold fast”) – Marriage is to be permanent. It is not a throw-away relationship, but a lifelong bond. The original word has the idea of sticking together.
- C. The unity of marriage (“one flesh”) – This refers to physical unity, but even more important is spiritual unity. A good marriage is like a triangle with God at the top. The three sides of the triangle represent a relationship with God and between husband and wife. The most important relationship is the one with God.
- D. The purity of marriage (“both naked...and not ashamed”) – There was no sin and no shame between Adam and Eve. This has been described as a picture of innocent delight.

Hebrews 13:4 *Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

3. God’s Unchanging Purpose and Plan for Marriage

Some would say that the biblical teaching on marriage in Genesis 2 is outdated. But with the passing of time and the complete revelation of biblical truth, we see that God’s plan is unchanging.

- A. The biblical teaching is inaugurated in Genesis 1:24 – God set the pattern for all time.
- B. The biblical teaching is validated in Matthew 19:1-6

Matthew 19:1-6 ¹ *And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan;* ² *And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there.* ³ *The Pharisees also came unto him,*

tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? ⁴ And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they two shall be one flesh? ⁶ Wherefore they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

C. The biblical teaching is elevated in Ephesians 5:22-27

Ephesians 5:22-27 ²² *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. ²⁴ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

Marriage is a picture of Christ and the church (His Bride).

God's first family is a pattern for all families. Adam and Eve had a perfect marriage in a perfect home (the Garden of Eden). There are no more perfect marriages because there are no perfect people. But there are good marriages and bad marriages. God wants you to have a Christian marriage in which the husband and wife are both saved and deeply committed to Christ and to each other. That is possible only by God's grace.

Being married is a lot like being saved. Marriage begins at a moment in time, but it is a relationship that lasts a lifetime.

When you get married you don't just say vows and make promises, you live life each day together as husband and wife. When you get saved you don't just get a set of rules, you have a relationship with Christ and you live each day with Him as Lord and Savior.