

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 5-1-11 AM NOTES
"THE GENESIS OF MARRIAGE"
GENESIS 1:28; 2:18-24
#1 in Series, "The Genesis of the Family"

I. The Purpose of Marriage (1:28; 2:18-20)

A. Children (1:28)

Malachi 2:14b-15a (ESV) "14 ...she is your companion and your wife by covenant. 15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring..."

Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

B. Companionship (2:18-20)

"There was clearly no *kinship* in any manner between man and the animals. None was *like* him; none could provide fellowship or companionship *for* him. It is abundantly clear and certain that he had not recently *evolved from* them! If the latter were true, and his body were still essentially an ape's body (or the body of whatever 'hominid' form may have been his immediate progenitor), it seems strange that he could have found nothing in common with either parents or siblings. On this point, as on many others, the notion of human evolution confronts and contradicts the plain statements of Scripture."

—Henry Morris

C. Completion (vv. 18, 20)

Genesis 2:18 (AMP) "...I will make him a helper meet (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him."

Genesis 2:18 (NASB) "...I will make him a helper suitable for him."

Hebrews 13:6 (NKJV) "So we may boldly say: *'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'*"

Psalms 54:4a (NKJV) "Behold, God *is* my helper..."

1 Corinthians 11:9 (NKJV) "Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man."

Ephesians 5:32 (ESV) "This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church."

"*The ultimate meaning of marriage is the representation of the covenant-keeping love between Christ and His church. To live this truth and to show this truth, is what it means, most deeply, to be married. This is the ultimate reason why marriage exists. There are other reasons, but this is the main one...The world treats this diamond like just another stone. But in fact, marriage is sacred beyond what most people imagine. It is a unique creation of God, a dramatic portrayal of God's relation to His people, and a display of the glory of God's covenant keeping love. Against all the diminished attitudes about marriage in the world—Jesus' world and our world—the Lord's words about marriage are breathtaking. This is the work of God, not man, and it does not lie in man's prerogative to end it.*"

—John Piper

II. The Provision of Marriage (vv. 21- 22a)

1 Corinthians 11:8-9 (ESV) “⁸ For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. ⁹ Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.”

1 Corinthians 11:12 (ESV) “for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.”

“The thought evidently is to stress that woman was made neither from Adam’s head (suggesting superiority to him) nor from his feet (suggesting inferiority), but from his side, indicating equality and companionship.”

—Henry Morris

III. The Presentation for Marriage (vv. 22b, 23)

Acts 15:18 (NKJV) “Known to God from eternity are all His works.”

“Here at Last”! (Knox Translation)

IV. The Permanence of Marriage (v. 24)

A. Leaving (v. 24a)

B. Joining (v. 24b)

“Victory is not won by evacuation.”

—Winston Churchill

C. Oneness (v. 24c)

1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV) “...as *being* heirs together of the grace of life...”

Mark 10:8-9 (NKJV) “⁸ ‘*and the two shall become one flesh*’; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 5-1-11 AM
“THE GENESIS OF MARRIAGE”
GENESIS 1:28; 2:18-24
#1 in Series, “The Genesis of the Family”

The word “Genesis” means beginning. Genesis is the book of beginnings. Genesis contains the seedbed of every major Biblical doctrine and every institution that God has established here on earth. Before God established the government or the church, He established the family. Some of the most valuable information on God’s plan for the family is found in the book of Genesis. Today, as we begin this series entitled, “The Genesis of the Family”, we are focusing on marriage.

Marriage did not evolve. Marriage was established by God. He wrote the manufacturer’s manual for marriage, and He knows how to make it work as it was intended to work. As a whole, marriage is not working today. Several years ago I read a startling statistic. At the time I read this statistic (and I doubt things have gotten better), the average 21 year old woman will have more husbands in her lifetime than children! When I hear of two non-Christians who end their marriage, I grieve, but I can understand that happening. They don’t have the indwelling Holy Spirit; they don’t have the Bible as their guide, they have not been made new creations in Christ with a new spiritual DNA that propels them to love God and hate sin. I certainly don’t condone it, but I can understand how they could say, “It’s not working; let’s just call it quits”. But what I do not understand is how two people who have confessed that Jesus is Lord, claim to have been made new creations in Christ, have a new spiritual DNA that results in their loving God and hating sin, and have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in them can say, “I reject what the Bible says; I choose to disobey God; I do not believe that God’s grace is sufficient to get us through some rough times and I am going to act in rebellion to my Lord and end my marriage”. The last thing that I want to do is to lay guilt trips on those who are not guilty before God. Some of you have been divorced and it was the last thing you wanted. Your spouse acted in a manner that ended the marriage and you would have done anything to keep it together. I am not speaking about those people. The problem I am struggling with is how professing believers could have been so conformed to the world that they elevate their happiness and comfort and carnal desires over the plan and will of God for marriage. As we go into this month where we emphasize the family and focus on family ministries, I want to call us back to the basics of God’s plan for the family and we need to start with marriage.

I. The Purpose of Marriage (1:28; 2:18-20)

One of the primary principles of Biblical interpretation is “the synthesis principle”. That principle says that we must synthesize or put together everything the Bible says about a subject to have a comprehensive understanding of that subject. Genesis does not tell us everything that God says about marriage, but it does give us the basics. In our text, we see a three-fold purpose for the establishment of marriage.

A. Children (1:28)

The first chapter of Genesis gives us the creation account in broad strokes and Genesis two fills in many details. In chapter one we see that God told the first couple to “be fruitful and multiply”. In the last book of the Old Testament we are given more details as to why God wants His people to have children. The reason He gave the first couple this command was not to create a population explosion, but to disperse the influence and authority of God from one generation to the next. **Malachi 2:14b-15a (ESV)** ¹⁴ “...she is your companion and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵ Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring.” It is in the atmosphere of a home where a godly man is married to a godly woman for life that godly offspring are raised. Certainly God chooses to call some to Himself who come from very ungodly situations. Some of you are examples of that. The norm is a godly mother and father having children and teaching them God’s truth and modeling for them God’s truth as the children see it lived out in their parents lives. I realize that there are exceptions

here and we do not have promises from God that if we model God's truths that our children will turn out to be godly. We have Proverbs that teach that this is the norm. **Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)** "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Let me illustrate. A study was done on the descendents of two men who lived at the same time in colonial America. Max Jukes lived in New York and was not a Christian. He married a young woman who also was not a Christian. They had children, and from their union 1,026 descendents were studied. Three hundred of them died prematurely. One hundred of them were in prison for an average of thirteen years each. One hundred ninety were prostitutes. One hundred were drunkards. Max Jukes and his descendents cost the government an estimated six million dollars. There is no record that any descendent of Max Jukes made any positive contribution to society. The other man in the study was Jonathan Edwards. He is one of the best known Christians in America's history. He was a college president and a missionary to Native Americans. He was best known as the Pastor for many years of the Congregational church in Northampton, Massachusetts. As Pastor of this church, he was a leader in the First Great Awakening that swept across the American Colonies. Jonathan Edwards married a godly young woman named Sarah. Of this union, 729 descendents have been studied. Three hundred of Jonathan Edwards' descendents became preachers of the gospel. Sixty five descendents were college professors. Thirteen of them were college presidents. Sixty descendents were authors of good books. Three descendents were U. S. Congressmen. One was Vice President of the United States [Tim Lahaye, "The Spirit Filled Family", Pages 17-18].

The home was meant to be the laboratory where the principles of God's Word are both taught and modeled. One of the things that God is doing in our church with children is in the area of foster care and adoption. I am so amazed! We have so many families who are fostering children and seeking to have a permanent influence on children by teaching and modeling godliness before them. Others are fostering with the desire to adopt. Others are adopting from other sources both domestically and internationally. A little later in the month, our "Ark of Hope" ministry is going to present another opportunity for many others who for various reasons cannot adopt or foster children to impact the lives of children in tough home situations. It is called "Safe Families for Children". More information will come in a week or two.

B. Companionship (2:18-20)

In all of the account of creation, this is the first time God has said, "It is not good". Something was missing with Adam. It may be that Adam discovered that something was missing when he was given the assignment of naming the animals. To name the animals showed the superiority of man over the animals. As Adam gave them names – from aardvark to zebra – he had to notice that there was a Mr. and Mrs. Lion, elephant, and toucan. There was no Mrs. Adam. Adam was aware of his aloneness. Of all the animals, there was none compatible with Adam spiritually, intellectually, or physically. Dr. Henry Morris shows how this strikes a damaging blow to those who say they accept the Bible and macroevolution. "There was clearly no *kinship* in any manner between man and the animals. None was *like* him; none could provide fellowship or companionship *for* him. It is abundantly clear and certain that he had not recently *evolved from* them! If the latter were true, and his body were still essentially an ape's body (or the body of whatever 'hominid' form may have been his immediate progenitor), it seems strange that he could have found nothing in common with either parents or siblings. On this point, as on many others, the notion of human evolution confronts and contradicts the plain statements of Scripture" [Henry Morris, "The Genesis Record", Page 98]. When God created man, He put within him the need for companionship. We learn from the New Testament that to some God gives the gift of singleness, but that is not the norm. When you talk to single adults, they will most all tell you that one of the greatest challenges they face is loneliness.

This companionship must be cultivated and maintained as one of the top priorities in marriage. You ought to enjoy being with your spouse more than with any other person. This companionship is one of the purposes of marriage. There is to be a depth of trust and sharing with one's spouse that no one else on earth can be allowed to share.

C. Completion (V18, 20)

The important phrase I want to focus on is “a helper comparable to him” in both verse 18 and verse 20. I like the Amplified translation of that phrase: **Genesis 2:18 (AMP)** “I will make him a helper meet (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him.” Someone jokingly said, “A man is incomplete until he is married and then he is finished”. Perhaps it would be better to say, “completed”. Let’s examine some word meanings. The word “comparable” means completing. The NASB says, “a helper suitable for him”. It means “corresponding to” or “second half”. Have you ever heard someone introduce their wife as their “better half”? That’s what this word comparable refers to. Let’s focus on that word “helper”. The Hebrew word doesn’t mean exactly what we take the word to mean in everyday English usage. Listen to the definition of “helper” from Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary: “One who helps; a relatively unskilled worker who assists a skilled worker, usually by manual labor”. I admit, that sounds really demeaning for women. That is not what the Hebrew word means. It is not talking about a domestic worker that God gave man to wash his clothes and cook his food. Let me point out something very important. God is called our helper in Scripture! **Hebrews 13:6 (NKJV)** “So we may boldly say: *‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’*” **Psalms 54:4a (NKJV)** “Behold, God *is* my helper...” If you think of the occupation of helper as being demeaning, you need to look at the Lord Himself who reveals Himself as our helper. The Hebrew word translated helper also has the idea of one who comes to the rescue. Women, if you think it sounds demeaning to be the man’s helper, translate 2:18 as “I will make a rescuer comparable to him”. We need you to rescue us! The New Testament commentary on this passage is **1 Corinthians 11:9 (NKJV)** “Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.” The woman was made from the man and for the man to be his helper, his rescuer, and his completer.

Those three are not the only purposes of marriage, but they are the ones laid before us in this passage. The New Testament adds another purpose that is more important than raising children, companionship, and completion. The New Testament revealed purpose of marriage is to provide a picture to the world of the relationship between Christ and the church. In Eph 5, Paul gives instructions about marriage and throughout he compares the relationship of the husband and wife to the relationship of Christ and the church. Then he tells us that this picture of Christ and the church is the purpose of marriage between two Christians. **Ephesians 5:32 (ESV)** “This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.” John Piper refers to this Ephesians 5 truth and says, “*The ultimate meaning of marriage is the representation of the covenant-keeping love between Christ and His church.* To live this truth and to show this truth, is what it means, most deeply, to be married. This is the ultimate reason why marriage exists. There are other reasons, but this is the main one.” He goes on to say, “The world treats this diamond like just another stone. But in fact, marriage is sacred beyond what most people imagine. It is a unique creation of God, a dramatic portrayal of God’s relation to His people, and a display of the glory of God’s covenant keeping love. Against all the diminished attitudes about marriage in the world – Jesus’ world and our world – the Lord’s words about marriage are breathtaking. This is the work of God, not man, and it does not lie in man’s prerogative to end it” [John Piper, “This Momentary Marriage”, pages 159-160].

II. The Provision of Marriage (V21-22a)

God’s last act of creation was woman; He saved the best for last! God created man from the ground (dirt) and then the woman from the man. Many “scholars” say that this passage is to be taken as allegory and not literally. The New Testament, however, approaches it as being literal. **1 Corinthians 11:8-9 (ESV)** “⁸ For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. ⁹ Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.” **1 Corinthians 11:12 (ESV)** “for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.” God personally formed man’s body, and now He forms the woman’s body. The Hebrew word translated “rib” in Genesis 2:21-22 is used many other times in the Old Testament and is translated “side”. Henry Morris comments on Eve’s creation: “The thought evidently is to stress that woman was made neither from Adam’s head (suggesting superiority to him) nor from his feet (suggesting inferiority), but from his side, indicating equality and companionship” [Henry Morris, “The Genesis Record”, Page 100].

III. The Presentation for Marriage (V22b, 23)

The woman was made from the man, for the man, and now is presented to the man. Eve was not an after thought. God waited until Adam recognized his need for her and now God presents her to him. **Acts 15:18 (NKJV)** "Known to God from eternity are all His works." This was all a part of His perfect plan.

The English translations of Adam's response to the presentation of his bride leave something to be desired. In the Hebrew, there is intense excitement. The Knox Translation says, "Here at last"! A good paraphrase would be "Wow!" Man realized that the woman shared his nature. He describes her as "bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh". She was a fellow bearer of the image of God and equal in nature. It is interesting that these are the first recorded human words in the Bible and they are the man's praise for the helper God has given him.

IV. The Permanence of Marriage (V24)

I am amazed at the flippancy with which marriage is treated. We have rejected the Biblical view of marriage as a covenant and we have turned it into a contract. We speak of marriage in terms of conditions, limits, rights, and ways out. But marriage is a covenant! A Biblical covenant is unconditional, unlimited and unending. A covenant marriage is not about terms and conditions; it is about trust and commitment. A covenant marriage is not about convenience and receiving; it is about character and giving. A contract is about legalities; a covenant is about loyalty. When we enter marriage as a three way covenant between us, our spouse and God, we keep going even when attraction is gone, even when we have been wronged, and even when happiness is a faint memory in the past. Because so many see marriage as a contract, they stand at an altar and say, "I do" but they don't. When they say "as long as we both shall live", they mean, "as long as we both have romantic feelings." They say, "till death do us part", but mean, "till disagreement or disappointment do us part". Notice the particulars of this marriage covenant in verse 24.

A. Leaving (V24a)

These commands are directed to the husband as the head of the family, but certainly the words apply to the wife also. They are leave parents physically, emotionally, and financially. We all have ancestral baggage and we are to leave it behind. The cord must be cut with dependence on the parents in any way. We are to respect parents, seek advice from them when needed, visit them, but there is to be no competition. Your spouse is to be the primary occupation of your affection, second only to the Lord Himself. Honoring our parents is a command that continues until they die, but honor does not mean that they take a place that only our spouse should have. Parents of married children, leave your married children alone, and give them advice when they ask for it. Be very cautious about helping them financially and do not allow them to be dependent on you.

B. Joining (V24b)

The word "joined to" or "cleave" in the KJV means to weld or glue. Certain industrial glues are so strong that when you try to separate two pieces of wood that are glued together by them, the pieces shatter before they come apart where they are glued. We are to be permanently glued together to our spouse. Referring to battle in WWII, Winston Churchill said, "Victory is not won by evacuation". Marriages are not healed or strengthened by evacuation. Couples should refuse to even consider divorce as an option.

C. Oneness (V24c)

We could spend a whole message on the meaning and ramifications of the husband and wife becoming one flesh. This becoming one flesh is symbolized and sealed by the sexual union, but "one flesh" is way more than that. It is the fusion of two lives together – physically, socially, financially, intellectually, and spiritually. This oneness is the complete giving over of oneself into a new circle of shared existence with their marriage partner. It is best described by the phrase in **1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV)** that says "...as *being* heirs together of the grace of life..."

Jesus quoted this verse in Mark 10:8-9 and then gave the obvious conclusion we should come to from what God said. **Mark 10:8-9 (NKJV)** "⁸ 'and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." This covenant union is to be until physical death. Whether this union was solemnized by a Pastor, a Priest, or an elected

official such as a Justice of the Peace, it is God who has joined you together. Your marriage, even with all its problems is a work of God and it is not man's prerogative to end it. (3248)