



To Have and to Hold

Lesson 4 The Relocation and Companionship

of Marriage

1. Our _____ changes. We become God's chosen, treasured possession.
2. This new relationship and new identity is rooted in the _____ of a _____.
3. The focal point of the New Covenant is God's promise that He will completely _____ and _____, making us a perfectly faithful bride forever.
4. Our response to God's New Covenant is to be two-fold: _____ and _____.

I. God created us to need _____, and He becomes for us the _____ companion.

It is not good for man to be alone; I will make a helper suitable for him. (Genesis 2:18)

A. We need companions for _____.

Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. . . Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? (Ecclesiastes 4:1-2, 11)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (II Corinthians 1:3-4)

God is our comfort!

B. We need companions to give us purpose in our _____.

Again, I saw vanity under the sun: one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, “For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?” This also is vanity and an unhappy business. Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. (Ecclesiastes 4:7-9)

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (I Corinthians 15:58)

In God we have purpose in our labor!

**C. We need companions to _____
_____ when we fall.**

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

Though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand. (Psalm 37:24)

The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. (Psalm 145:14)

God lifts us up when we fall!

**D. We need companions to _____
and _____ us.**

And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.

God settles the solitary in a home;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.
(Psalm 68:5-6)

God strengthens and protects us!

E. We need an _____ companion.

I will never leave you nor forsake you. (Heb. 13:5)

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17)

II. Marriage involves leaving your biological community to create a new community, to live with another person for the rest of your life.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall be one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)

God's call to His people is two-fold: _____ them and _____ Me.

In the following passages, circle the phrases that speak to leaving something/someone and underline those that speak of dwelling with another.

- ¹⁰ Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear:
forget your people and your father's house,
¹¹ and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him. . .
¹³ All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold.
¹⁴ In many-colored robes she is led to the king,
with her virgin companions following behind her.
¹⁵ With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
(Psalm 45:10-15)

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.
(Matthew 10:37-38)

Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."
(Matthew 19:21)

²⁷ Then Peter said in reply, “See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?” ²⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundred-fold and will inherit eternal life.
(Matthew 19:27-29)

²⁹ And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.” (Luke 18:29-30)

**Jesus doesn't just call us to radical _____;
He also promises radical _____.**

**III. Marriage involves living with another person,
together in the same _____ .**

One thing I have desired – to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. (Psalm 27:4)

I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
(Psalm 23)

In the explanation of the New Covenant in Ezekiel 37, a dwelling place is promised:

And I will make a covenant of peace with them;
It will be an everlasting covenant with them.
And I will place them and multiply them,
And will set My sanctuary in their midst forever.
My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. (Ez. 37:26-27)

Jesus' words in John 14 ring with a marital sort of promise, touching on both a place to dwell together and eternal companionship:

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. (John 14:2-3)

IV. In our marital union with God in Christ, we have both the _____ to dwell and the _____ to dwell with.

A. God dwells _____ us.

i. The _____ dwells with us.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever. . . You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17)

ii. The _____ and the _____ dwell with us.

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and **make our home with him.** (John 14:23)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that . . . he may grant you to be strengthened with power through **his Spirit in your inner being,** so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith. . . that you may be **filled with all the fullness of God.** (Ephesians 3:14-19)

B. God dwells _____ us: We are the place in which God dwells.

Abide in me, and **I in you.** . . Whoever abides in me and **I in him,** he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:4-5)

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that **God's Spirit dwells in you?** . . . For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (I Corinthians 3:16-17)

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of **the Holy Spirit within you,** whom you have from God? You are not your own. (I Corinthians 6:19)

C. We dwell _____ God.

I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, that **they may dwell with me;** he who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me. (Psalm 101:6)

The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling has seized the godless: "**Who among us can dwell with the consuming fire?** Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?" (Isaiah 33:14)

Why can we dwell with God without fear?

D. We dwell _____ God: God is the place in which we dwell eternally.

The **eternal God is a dwelling place**, and underneath are the everlasting arms. (Deut. 33:27)

Lord, **you have been our dwelling place** in all generations. (Psalm 90:1)

Conclusion:

One of the reasons God uses the marriage metaphor to help us understand our relationship with Him is so that we can understand the call to leave our old life and relationships and cleave exclusively to Him. Doing so places us in an amazing relationship of dwelling with, dwelling in, and being indwelt by the only perfect and eternal companion of our souls.

Study Questions

Day 1

Half of the occurrences of the word *comfort* in the New Testament occur in Paul's second letter to the Christians in Corinth.

A. Read II Corinthians 1:3-7.

1. Who comforts us in our affliction? _____
2. What two words are used in verse 4 to describe the kinds of affliction God will comfort us in?

3. Having been comforted by God, what are we to do?

B. Read II Corinthians 7:5-7, 13.

1. Describe the state Paul was in physically and emotionally (verses 5 and 6). _____

2. Who comforted Paul (verse 6)? _____

3. How did God comfort Paul (verse 6)? _____

4. Who was comforted in verse 7 and how was he comforted? _____

5. What else besides comfort did Titus receive (vs. 13)? _____

C. Read II Corinthians 13:11. What does this verse say about comfort? _____

What can you conclude from these verses in II Corinthians about how God comforts His people?

Day 2

We saw in this lesson that God gives us purpose in our labor. The following questions further explore a Christian's labor.

A. Read Romans 16:1-12, and note what Paul says about the following people:

Phobe: _____

Prisca and Aquila: _____

Mary: _____

Urbanus: _____

Tryphaena and Tryphosa: _____

Persis: _____

B. How does Paul describe Euodia and Syntyche in Philippians 4:2-3? _____

C. What does I Corinthians 3:5-11 teach about how God accomplishes His work among His people?

Verse 5: _____

Verses 6-9: _____

Verses 10-11: _____

D. What do the following verses indicate we are working together for?

Ephesians 4:12 _____

Philippians 4:3 _____

Colossians 4:11 _____

II John 8 _____

Day 3

Trace the establishment of God's dwelling.

A. In Genesis

Read Genesis 3:8-10. What does this passage suggest about God's relationship to Adam and Eve before and after sin? _____

Read Genesis 5:21-24. How does this passage describe Enoch's relationship with God? _____

Read Genesis 6:9. How does this verse describe Noah's relationship to God? _____

B. In Exodus and I Kings

In Exodus 24:15-18, where was God dwelling, and who was allowed to meet Him there? _____

In Exodus 25:1-9, what instructions does God begin to give Moses about where He dwells? _____

According to Exodus 25:17-22, where specifically would God dwell and meet with Moses? _____

In Exodus 29:38-43, where specifically does God meet with His people? _____

In Exodus 29:45-46, why does God say He brought the people out of the land of Egypt? _____

Read I Kings 8:27-30. Where do these verses say that God dwells? _____

What is the occasion of Solomon's prayer in I Kings 8? _____

Day 4

When Jesus was alive on earth, Solomon's temple had been destroyed, but a new temple had been built by Herod the Great. This temple played an important role in Jesus' earthly life. Note the events in Jesus' life recounted in the following passages:

Luke 2:21-38 _____

Luke 2:41-52 _____

Luke 4:1-13 _____

Luke 19:45-48 _____

Luke 20:1-8 _____

Luke 21:5-6 _____

John 8:57-59 _____

What do we learn about Jesus and the temple in Matthew 12:1-8? _____

What do we learn about Jesus and the temple in John 2:19-22? _____

Day 5

The following questions explore teachings on the temple given to the early church (and us!).

A. Read Leviticus 26:11-13 and compare those verses with II Corinthians 6:14-18. What does II Corinthians teach us about those promises of God in Leviticus?

B. What do we learn about the temple in the following passages?

Ephesians 2:19-22 _____

I Corinthians 3:16-17 _____

I Corinthians 6:18-20 _____

Revelation 3:12 _____

Revelation 11:15-19 _____

Revelation 21:1-3, 22 _____

Memory verses

**Review Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Hebrews 10:19, 22-23.
Memorize Hebrews 10:24-25.**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Hebrews 10:19, 22-25

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus. . .

²² Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.